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Period Homes & INTERIORS

Real homes *to inspire you*

20

*Stunning period
properties on
the market*

* 17th-century cottage * Edwardian garden flat
* Listed lodge * London terrace

SPRING DECORATING

Beautiful botanical schemes
for both indoors and out

SHOPPING

- * Create a bespoke work area with a new desk
- * Display fresh flowers in an eye-catching vase
- * Prepare for summer with new garden seating

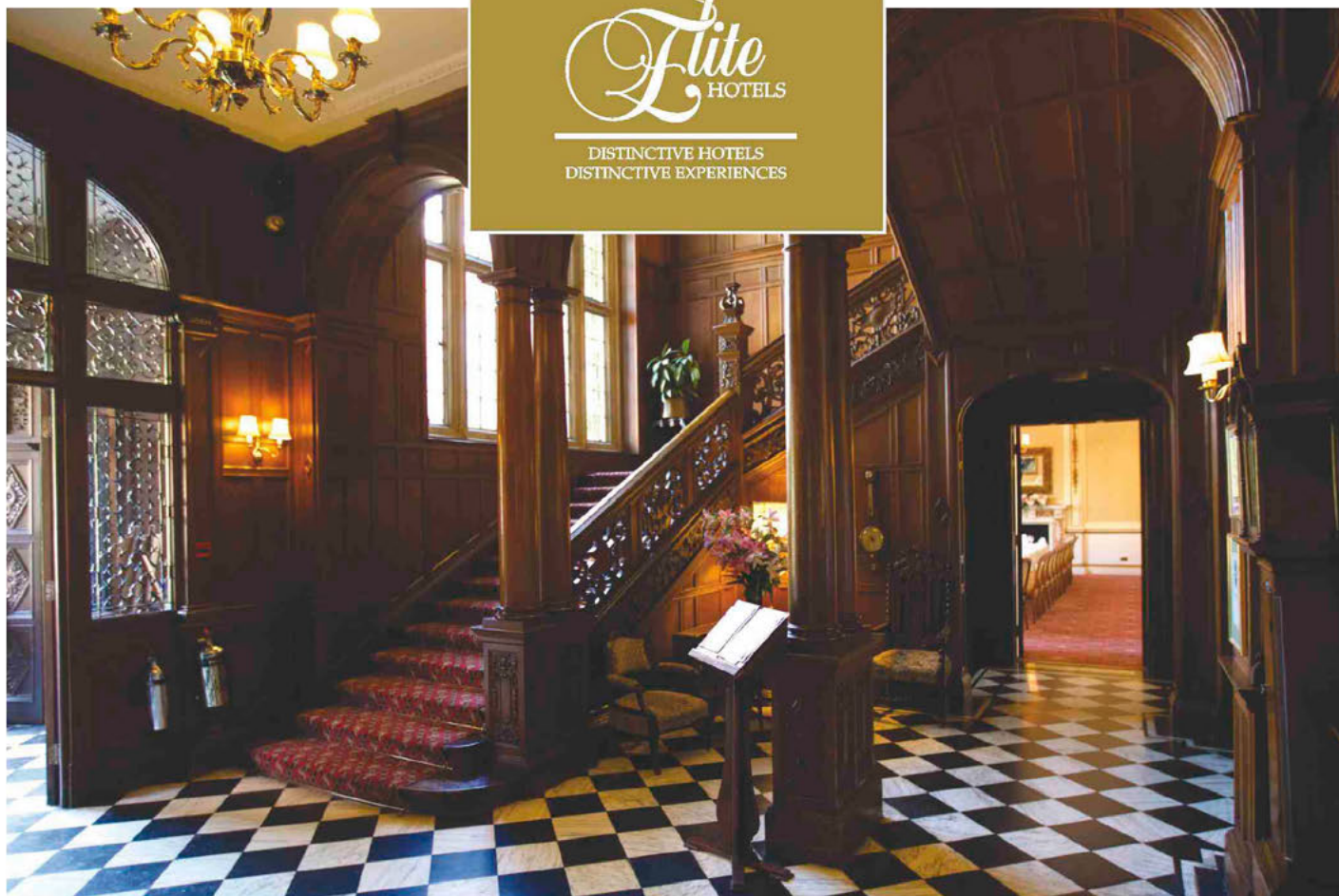
ANTIQUE HUNTING

On the trail for collectables
in Antwerp and Tongeren

Summer rooms special

20 ideas to create extra living and entertaining space for every season





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Welcome

We're filled with the optimism of spring this month! At the time of writing, the daffodils are out and the cherry blossom is blooming. Our main decorating story in this issue, **Beautiful botanicals**, is inspired by the beauty of nature and offers **ideas for schemes both indoors and out**. Discover floaty fabrics with leafy prints alongside pretty wallpapers and accessories. When it comes to home renovations, at the top of many people's wish list is a dedicated summer room. We've selected 20 designs to inspire you, ranging from **stunning glazed extensions** to stand-alone summerhouses, all designed to offer extra living and entertaining space, whatever the season. And, of course, there are four real homes to take a peek at – a 17th-century cottage, an Edwardian garden flat, a listed lodge and a London terrace. And if you're tempted to move home yourself, take a look at our **round-up of period properties** on the market. Enjoy!

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Don't miss the June issue of *Period Homes & Interiors*, on sale Friday 8 May

GET IN TOUCH

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Be in with a chance of winning the competitions featured in the magazine each month by visiting www.periodhomesandinteriors.com/competitions.

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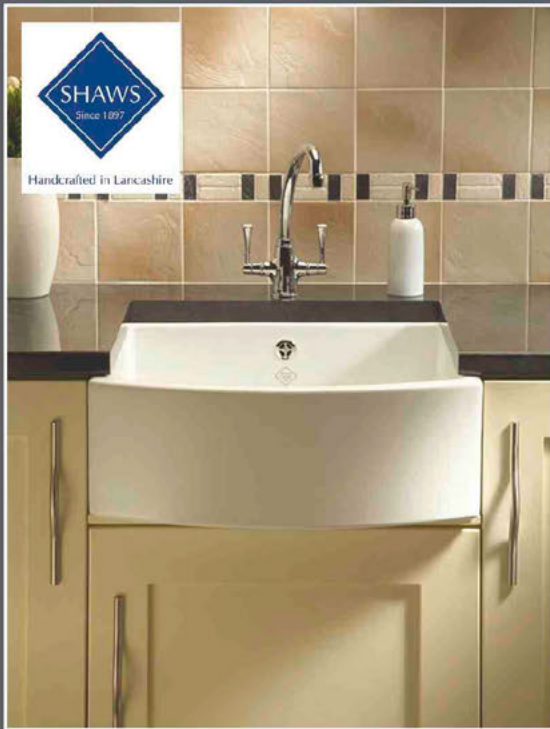
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Shaws of Darwen



Shaws of Darwen have been manufacturing ceramic fireclay sinks in England for 118 years and still use time honoured traditional methods and materials. The factory is based in the beautiful rolling Lancashire hills and, having refined fireclay production for all these years to an 'art form', every handcrafted sink today is an individual product, bearing testament to the craftsmen who produce them. Each sink is proudly stamped with the signature of its maker and bears its own distinctive badge which equals a traditional quality built sink to 'world-class' manufacturing standards.

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IN THE NEWS

Our round-up of design buys, favourite home products and new trends

Back to the floor

Nothing spruces up a room quite like a new carpet, and the new *Caribbean Days* collection at Kersaint Cobb is just the ticket. Made from 100% wool, it's ideal for high-traffic areas, and with nine colourways you'll easily find one to work with your scheme. Shown here is Nevis (£36.50 per sq m) but the shades do go quite a lot darker if you're worried about dirty marks. 01675 430430, www.kersaintcobb.co.uk.



DIY STYLE

If you think shutters are expensive, or simply prefer the DIY approach, The Shutter Store is for you. By doing the measuring and fitting yourself (don't worry, the online videos will help you get it exactly right), you cut the cost without compromising on quality. There's a great selection of styles and colours to choose from and a 36-month guarantee on purchases. 0800 074 7321, www.shutters.co.uk.

Perfect pastels

Thinking of brightening up your interiors for spring? A pretty pastel paint will uplift a room in an instant. Valspar can colour match any shade you wish, so why not take along your favourite spring flower to be replicated for a true seasonal shade? From £26.83 per 2.5 ltrs of Premium Walls & Ceilings paint, Valspar is exclusive to B&Q (www.diy.com).



Carry a flame

Known for its gorgeous clothes and quirky homeware, the new home fragrance collection from Joules follows the company's roots, taking inspiration from the English country garden. The Kitchen Garden range includes candles and diffusers in a choice of four fragrances: Cottage Herb, Rose Tomato, Blossom and Currant Leaf. Pop one in any room of the house for an instantly fresh, fragrant ambience. Candles have a burn time of around 55 hours and cost £19.95 each. www.joules.com.



Fans of artist Angie Lewin's pretty wallpapers, ceramics and fabrics will be excited to hear that she is holding her first solo exhibition of watercolours in Edinburgh from 1-31 May this year. Visit www.angielewin.co.uk and sign up for her e-newsletter for more information.

SETTING THE TABLE

Blue and white is such a classic combination and Sainsbury's new Aqua tabletop range has the balance just right. Mix and match spots and stripes and throw in a few pieces in the fun fish print for a nautical feel. Fish table runner, £12; tumblers, £3 each; Aqua print serving bowl, £12; aqua print dip bowls, £2.50 each; mugs, £4 each. 0800 636262, www.sainsburys.co.uk.



Paper patterns

This fun wallpaper is part of a collection for children's lifestyle brand Ana-Moly. Available online, the range includes cute robins, donkeys and fish in a variety of colourways. We think the whimsical designs are grown-up enough to be used in any room in the home; here, Geese in Popberry is used in a hallway (it's also available in Ink if pink's not your thing). The paper measures 52cm wide and is £78 for a 10m roll. www.ana-moly.co.uk.



SO TO BED

We love this reversible 100% cotton bed linen, which is part of the new spring collection at Secret Linen Store. Shown here in Navy, it is also available in purple and its 260-thread count makes it super-soft. The subtle artichokes pattern is ideal for adding interest to a pared-back bedroom without overwhelming the scheme – mix with a tonal throw to pull the look together. From £10 for an Oxford pillowcase. www.secretlinenstore.com.

Branching out from the success of her Knightsbridge store, designer Nina Campbell is opening a second London store in the Design Centre at Chelsea Harbour. Call in for furniture, accessories and new collections from 15 April.

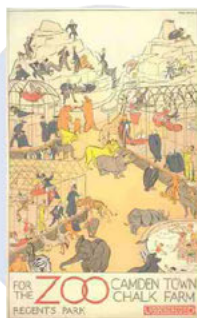
Watch the birdie

We love this quirky little Teapot Bird Feeder to brighten up a spot in your garden. It's made from metal and ceramic and is decorated with a pretty vintage-inspired floral print with a gold trim. There's even an attached cord ready for hanging it out in the garden – the birds will love it and we think it's a bargain at just £14.95. www.prezzybox.com.



3 OF THE BEST POSTERS

The latest exhibition at the London Transport Museum, A Century of Creative Women, showcases posters from 1910 that are all designed by women. The posters displayed are absolutely exquisite and are available to purchase in the museum shop and online at www.ltmuseumshop.co.uk.



Regents Park Zoo by Anrid Banniza Johnston, 1930, £69.95.



We're Off To The Pantomime by Mabel Lucie Atwell, 1913, £69.95.



Underground Brings All Good Things Nearer by Dora M Batty, 1932, £69.95.

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Lido steel console table with two mirrored drawers, 76 (h) x 122 (w) x 44cm (d), £536, Sweetpea & Willow.



Archimedes numerical chest, made from sheesham and mango wood, 76 (h) x 130 (w) x 55cm (d), £550, Graham and Green.



Tennessee American oak writing desk on cross-supporting cast-iron legs, 91 (h) x 136 (w) x 45cm (d), £1,177, Artisaniti.

Stylist's notebook

Desks needn't be dull and functional – these designs will inspire you to pull up a chair and get studious



Stompa curve desk in silk white and oak with two drawers on each side, 68 (h) x 153 (w) x 72cm (d), £299, John Lewis.



French Lawrence desk in duck-egg blue, 78 (h) x 150 (w) x 60cm (d), £2,136, Oficina Inglesa.



Perky Formica desk with a bright yellow top and solid oak legs, 74.5 (h) x 108 (w) x 59cm (d), £275, Winter's Moon.



Milligan desk made from mango hardwood with five drawers, 90 (h) x 120 (w) x 61cm (d), £379, Atkin and Thyme.



Studio work desk with a light industrial-style top on trestle legs, 83 (h) x 160 (w) x 80cm (d), £550, English Abode.



Perrilea mirrored three-drawer desk with offset sloping legs, 77 (h) x 160 (w) x 61cm (d), £820, Out There Interiors.

Chalkboard Blackboard
Paint in Magenta, available
in 180 shades, £28.14 per
ltr, Ecos Organic Paints



Favourite *find*

This CHALKBOARD PAINT from Ecos Organics Paints is perfect for creating an unusual feature wall. Available in 180 shades, it's free from solvents, can be used with ordinary pavement chalks and is wipe-clean

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Piet Hein Eek bamboo ceramic vase featuring Vietnamese motifs, 20cm (h), £59, Amara.



Cream vase with sculpted flower, 11cm (h), also available in a larger size, £5.99, Dunelm.



Ben de Lisi turquoise glass irregular ridge vase, 24.5cm (h), £15, Debenhams.

Stylist's notebook

Summer's nearly here, so fill some bright and wonderful vases with pretty blooms and display on a windowsill or sideboard



Dartington Little Gems funnel vase in amber, 9cm (h), £14, John Lewis.



Orchid printed vase with stunning all-over print, 25cm (h), £28, Laura Ashley.



Hand-crafted natural swan vase in earthenware, 19cm (h), £45, In-Spaces.



Decorative ceramic watering can/vase with bird detail, 25cm (h), £22.50, Pastel Lane.



Nina Campbell jewel bud vase, part of a set of four, 8.5cm (h), £70, English Abode.



Earthenware tulip vase in pink by Orla Kiely, 22cm (h), £35, Unique & Unity.

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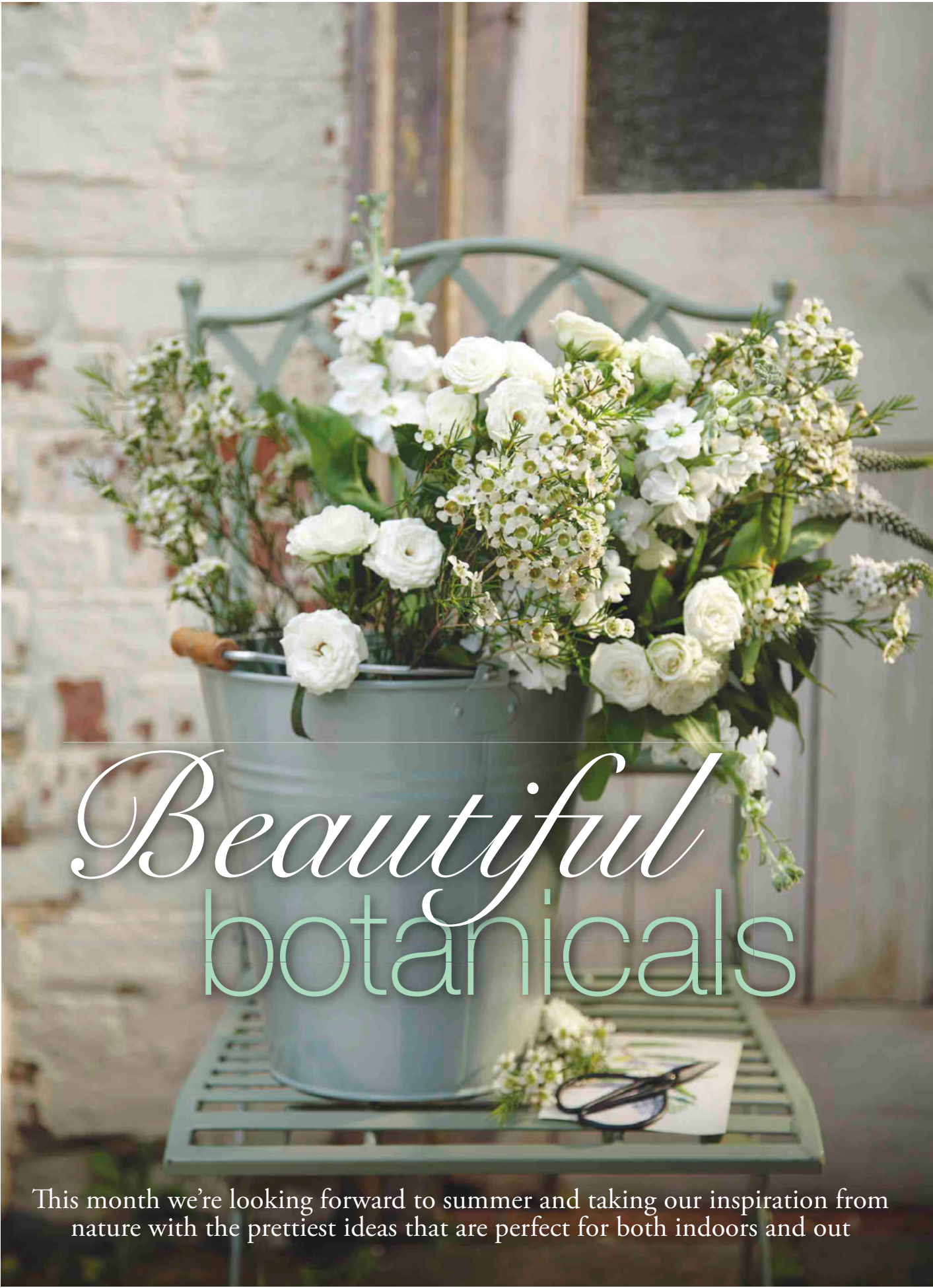
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AprilPHI



Beautiful botanicals

This month we're looking forward to summer and taking our inspiration from nature with the prettiest ideas that are perfect for both indoors and out



‘For a traditional garden room, mix leafy-green patterns with vintage furniture and classic potting shed accessories, alongside plenty of terracotta pots for a vibrant colour combination’

Style advice

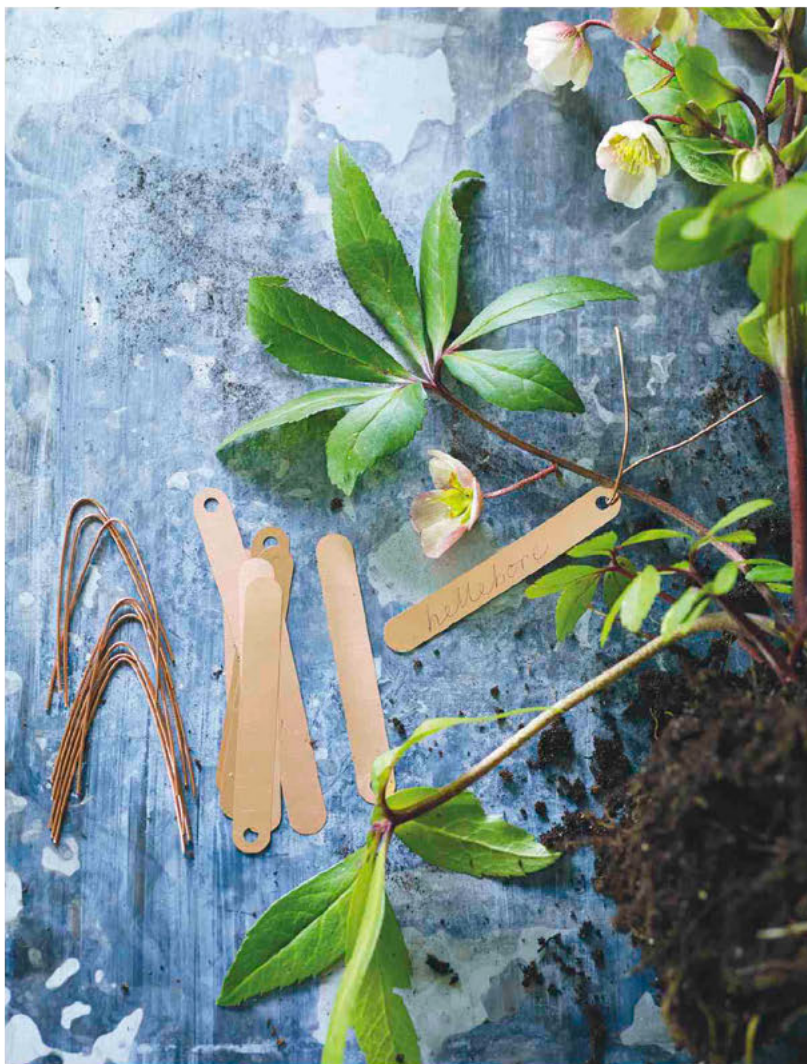
Combine fresh shades of green with chalky white and rustic wood tones for a timeless colour palette.

Page 17 Gather freshly cut flowers from your garden for a country-style display.

Ornate metal folding bistro chair, £35; enamel bucket, £6; both Tesco (0800 323 4050, www.tesco.com/direct).

Opposite page A beautiful ivy print fabric is perfect for adding impact.

Blinds in Hedera 224336, £47 per m, Vintage 2 collection at Sanderson (0844 543 9500, www.sanderson-uk.com).

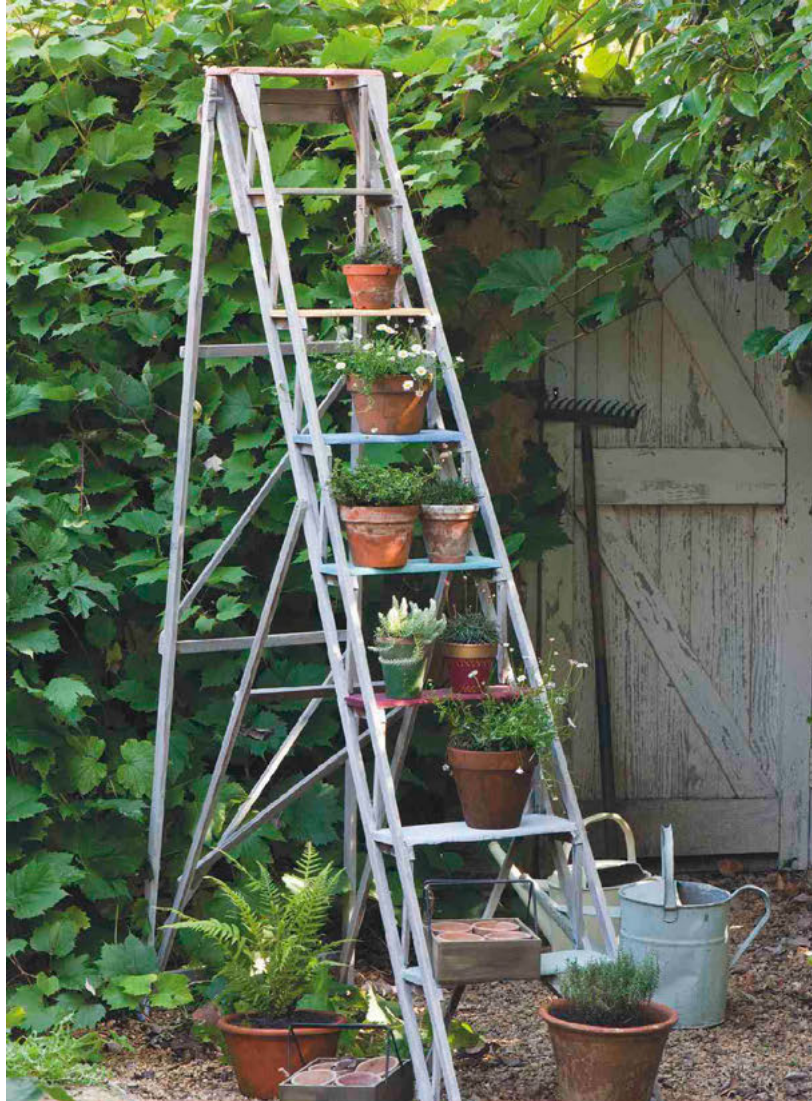


Above Choose attractive accessories to bring a touch of style to your planting.

Obar copper plant labels, £6 for 10, Rowen & Wren (01276 451077, www.rowenandwren.co.uk).

Left Keep outdoor table settings refined with simple crockery, cutlery and glassware. Croft Collection dinner plates, £8 each; Croft Collection side plates, £6 each; Croft Collection tea mug, £6; Croft ceramic cutlery, £3.50 per piece; soda bottle, £25; all John Lewis (0345 604 9049, www.johnlewis.com).





Above A painted stepladder provides an ideal spot for displaying plant pots. Ladder painted in wash using Old White Chalk paint; steps painted in (from bottom) Duck Egg Blue, Louis Blue, Burgundy, Provence, Greek Blue, Arles, Olive and Scandinavian Pink Chalk paint; all £18.95 per ltr, Annie Sloan (01865 803168, www.anniesloan.com).

Right This clever roller featuring birds and foliage will provide pretty pattern on walls in an instant. Aviary Garden decorative paint roller, £30, Laura Ashley (0333 200 8009, www.lauraashley.com).



Opposite page Simply styled furniture suits this fresh scheme perfectly – look out for pieces finished in cool grey and white tones. Lotte bench, £195; Sumptuous sheepskin rug, £150; sheepskin cushion, £55; velvet and linen cushion in Dove Grey, £20; Lina side table, from £65; delicate hanging frames in copper and silver, from £17.50 each; all Cox & Cox (0844 858 0744, www.coxandcox.co.uk).

Style advice

Personalise your space with creative paint projects – try revamping vintage furniture or adding decorative detail to walls.



‘Splashes of vivid green will stand out brilliantly against an understated backdrop. Fill your home with verdant plants and flowers or frame foliage for an eye-catching display’



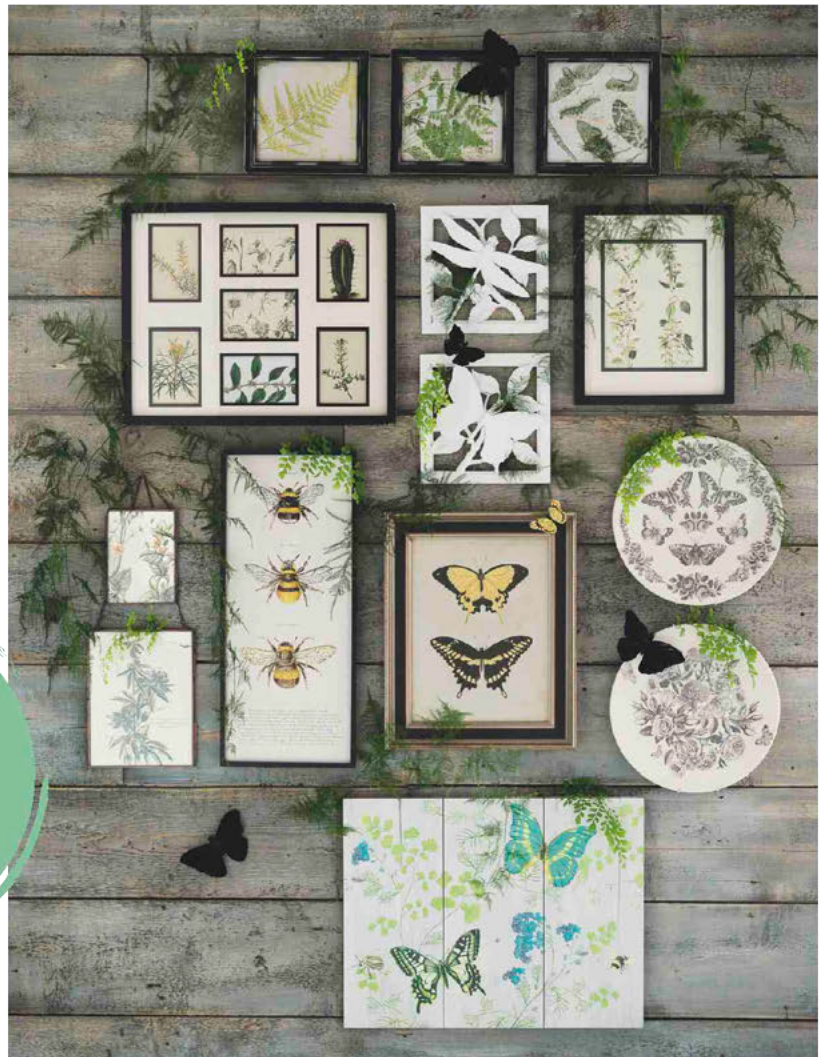
Left Team verdant patterns with natural textures for a relaxing space. Raphael wallpaper 444-38, £84 per roll, from the Raphael II collection; stool in Ellen, from £83 per m, from the Clotilde collection; bed in Patrick, from £91 per m, from the Lina collection; curtains in Hans, from £51 per m, from the Lina collection; all Sandberg (0800 731 9622, www.sandbergwallpaper.com).

Opposite Fern-print curtains bring a fresh feel to this living room. Curtains and rectangular cushion in Manila, £16.99 per m, Paradise collection at Prestigious Textiles (01274 688448, www.prestigious.co.uk).

Right Create a gallery of botanical designs – these plates, plaques and prints all look fantastic together. Fern print wall art, £39.50 for a set of three; multi-aperture photo frame, £25; dragonfly wall plaque, £17.50; butterfly wall plaque, £17.50; Essential black photo frame, £12; small hanging frame, £9.50; large hanging frame, £12.50; bee print wall art, £19.50; butterflies wall art, £49.50; butterfly decal platter, £35; floral decal platter, £35; botanical wall art, £35; all Marks & Spencer (0333 014 8000, www.marksandspencer.com).

Style advice

Entomology motifs are in abundance this season, so keep an eye out for birds, bees and butterflies.





‘Green is such an easy colour to introduce into a decorating scheme as it combines well with so many other hues. Teamed with white and grey it is perfect for a period interior’

Style advice

Botanical prints work wonderfully on upholstery, making them the ideal choice for statement pieces.

With a tonal palette and intricate design, this pattern captures the wildness of nature.

Wallace wallpaper in Orchard, £130 per roll; chair in Wallace Secret Garden in Green Gauze linen, £85 per m; cushion in Zenor Forest in Deep Blue linen, £85 per m; all The Secret Garden Collection by Liberty Art Fabrics (020 7573 9676, www.liberty.co.uk).





Natural willow basket, available in a variety of shapes, £10, Sainsbury's.



Barnsley lilac and snowball faux-flower bouquet with vase, 80cm (h), £195, Neptune.



Herb planters featuring thyme, chives and mint, £14 each, House of Fraser.

Stylish shopping

Enjoy the vintage garden look with these lovely buys that will brighten up your indoor living space



Teal bird cage with stand, in a rustic, distressed finish, 94cm (h), £40, Bhs.



Botanical butterfly cushion with plain green on the reverse, £19.50, Marks & Spencer.



Glass candlesticks, with a metal holder at the top, £6.99 each, H&M.



Vintage-style floral hanging handcrafted heart, £12, 32cm (dia), Next.



Print of *Spinacia oleracea*, from the RHS Lindley Library, from £20, Royal Horticulture Society.



Suvi glass, £4; Suvi carafe, £10; both with natural wicker covers, Habitat.

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17th-century cottage • Edwardian garden flat • Listed lodge • London terrace



MAIN PHOTOGRAPH JO SHELDRAKE

GET THE LOOK

Steal the style from four of the rooms in our real homes with these carefully chosen buys that will help you recreate the look



REAL HOMES

Step inside four beautiful period properties, from a listed lodge to a London terraced home



SPRING GARDEN

The garden at Chinthurst Lodge in Surrey is overflowing with planting inspiration, lovingly created by owner Hilary Goodridge



Style advice

Stripping back the black stain from all the beams was a labour of love, but it has made the single biggest difference to the look of the cottage.





A QUEST FOR PERFECTION

Lucy and Joe Howard's sensitive renovation of their 17th-century cottage is a credit to their passion for fine craftsmanship and attention to detail

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH



If Lucy Howard's West Sussex home could talk, it would no doubt be offering her its heartfelt thanks. From a property that appeared to be stuck in an Eighties rut – think colour combinations of oxblood red and apricot, plus black-stained beams – she has

created a home that is stylish and supremely comfortable, with fresh country schemes that carefully respect the period style of the building.

It is Lucy's enthusiasm, drive and, in her own words, 'a lot of bossing' that has turned this Grade II-listed cottage into the welcoming home that she shares with her husband Joe, a lawyer, teenage sons Harry and Oliver and two miniature dachshunds, Lottie and Linus. The first time the couple, who were based in London, drove down to visit it in 2008, Lucy recalls that they took one look at the breathtaking view from the garden across the South Downs National Park and knew this was the one. 'That was before we had even

set foot inside the house,' she laughs. 'We'd been coming to the area for years because Joe's parents have a house nearby, so we knew that places in a location like this rarely come up for sale.' The >>

Key facts



THE OWNERS Lucy and Joe Howard live in the property with their two children Harry and Oliver and two miniature dachshunds Lottie and Linus.

THEIR HOME A Grade II-listed property in West Sussex dating back in parts to the 1660s, which has been converted from two farm workers' cottages.

PURCHASED 2008.

WORK COMPLETED A decorative overhaul throughout, plus conversion of the stables into guest quarters and rebuilding a traditional oak outbuilding that had been destroyed by a storm.



Shades of grey, green and duck-egg blue lend a soothing feel to the kitchen, which was made by Lucy's joiner, Philip Hogg. The cup-pull handles and knobs are by Clayton Munroe (01803 865700, www.claytonmunroe.com).



'People think I'm mad opting for solid wood units, but I wanted to be able to see the grain through the paint'

building, which was formerly two workers' cottages serving the nearby farm, dates back to 1660, with later additions in the 1900s.

As well as undertaking a complete decorative overhaul, Lucy and Joe also wanted to convert the stables into guest quarters and rebuild a traditional oak outbuilding that had been destroyed in a storm. Fortunately, Lucy loves nothing better than a project. 'I trained and worked as a lawyer but I've always had a strong creative streak, which I've channelled into doing up properties,' she confides.

Having worked with Leeds-based builder-joiner Philip Hogg on the family's previous home, Lucy persuaded him to take on this project. 'Phil is a proper old-school craftsman; I would draw what I wanted on the back of an envelope and he

would interpret it,' she recalls. 'He and his team set themselves up in the former agricultural barn, which already had a kitchenette, and they would come down for 10 days at a time, then return to Yorkshire for four days.'

TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP

Philip's work includes the beautiful painted kitchen, which is traditionally made using solid wood. 'People think I'm barking mad opting for wood rather than MDF but I wanted to be able to see the grain through the paint,' says Lucy, who confesses to being 'utterly fastidious', adding, 'I tried 12 different cupboard handles before choosing these pewter ones; they pretty much blew my kitchen budget out of the water but were worth every penny.' Another indulgence is the choice >>



Style advice

Take a leaf out of Lucy's book and mix furniture from different eras – your home will be more visually interesting if it doesn't all match.

Classic 1950s Wishbone chairs from Cale Associates (0870 220 2055, www.caleassociates.com) have been teamed with a table from Oka (0844 815 7380, www.okadirect.com). 'I don't like to stick to one style or era,' Lucy admits.

Natural furnishings in linen and tweed work beautifully with the 17th-century architecture in the snug. The sofa in Warwick Bainbridge fabric and chair are from Sofas & Stuff (0808 178 3211, www.sofasandstuff.com).



'I trained as a lawyer but I've always had a creative streak, which I've channelled into doing up properties'

of Calacatta Oro for the worksurfaces, a pure white marble that Lucy admits to being totally impractical. 'I went for the aesthetics. It's rather like wearing high heels – you sometimes have to suffer to look good,' she explains.

PITCHING IN

Lucy's attention to detail is evident everywhere, from the traditionally forged wrought-iron latches on the doors to the whitish-grey hue she has used for all the walls. 'I won't tell you how many years it took to find that grey – it has no yellow in it and it is perfect,' she says. The soft colour serves as a foil for natural fabrics that span gentle shades of watery greens and duck-egg blues, through to dusty pinks and corals. 'I wouldn't want a home without colour, but I tend to opt for muted hues,' she adds.

And while Lucy confesses to being 'the nightmare overseer', she isn't afraid to roll up her sleeves and pitch in. During one of the worst winters on recent record, she climbed the scaffolding in the snow to help the roofers nail old Sussex tiles to the stables roof. 'I wanted to see if I could do it; this is all about making our home,' she explains.

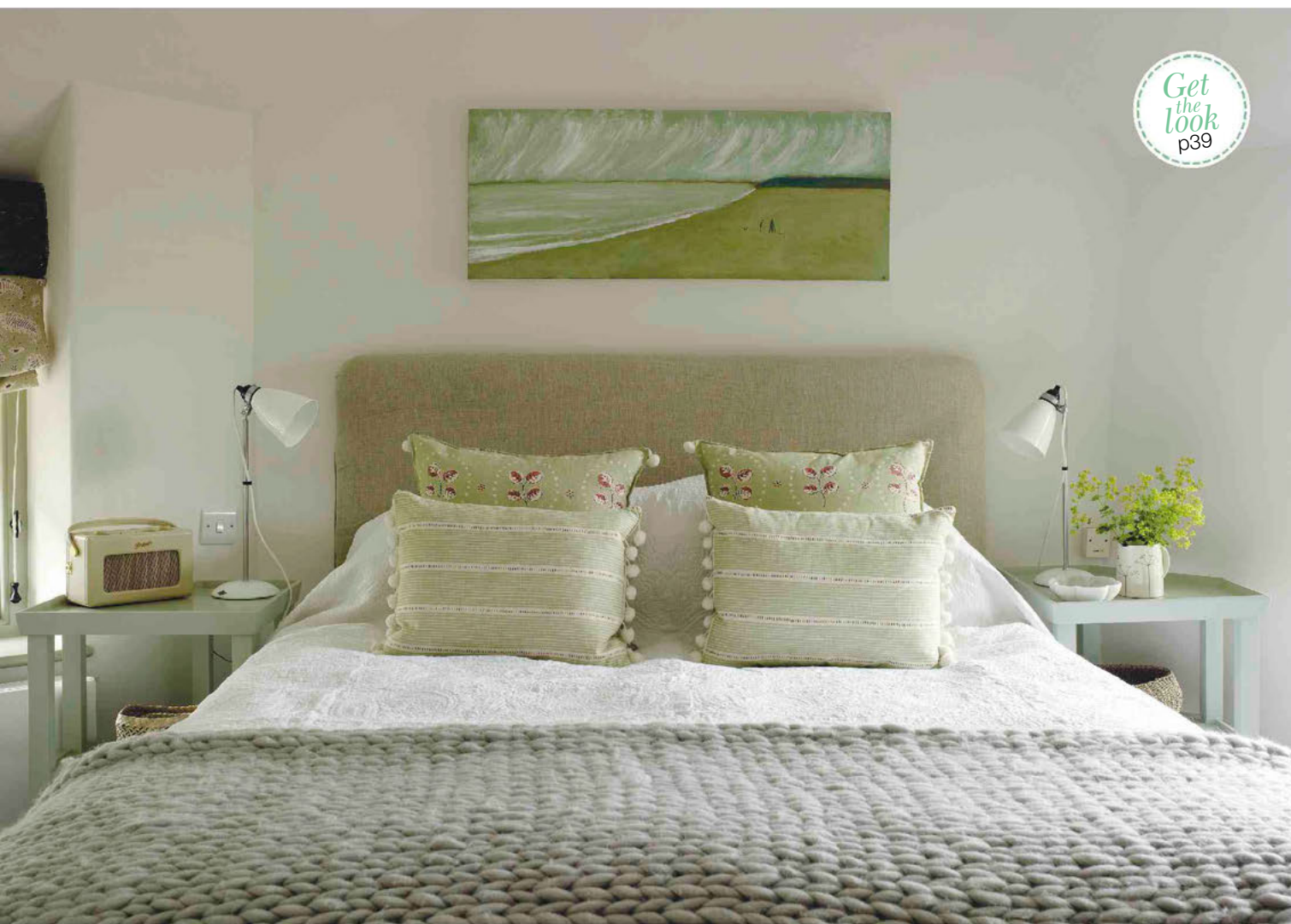
The former stables now play host to a steady stream of guests, who come to enjoy the beautiful countryside and the Howards' genial hospitality. Lucy, meanwhile, is busy tending to her beloved gardens while dreaming up the next project. 'I have been taking a course in ceramics for the last four years and my plan is to install a studio and a kiln in the oak outbuilding,' she enthuses. Chances are, this indomitable spirit will always have a new plan up her sleeve. 



Above left Lucy spotted these cushions, made from vintage velvet curtains, at a design fair. 'I'd been looking for this particular coral shade for ages, as it brings just the right amount of warmth to the space,' she explains.

Above Lucy opted for tongue-and-groove in the main bathroom in homage to the age of the house, but the wide boards have been hung horizontally to add a modern twist. The bespoke solid oak vanity unit features a top in Calacatta Oro marble.

Left A room in itself, the comfortable hallway features treasured antique finds, including an oak chest and a 19th-century sofa picked up in nearby Petworth.



Above and far right Bobble fringing and a chunky knitted throw add texture to the main bedroom, decorated in Lucy's favourite palette of grey and green. The headboard is from The White Company (020 3758 9222, www.thewhitecompany.com). The cushions are in Vanessa Arbuthnott fabric (01285 831437, www.vanessaarbuthnott.co.uk), while the Bluebell armchair (far right) came from Sofa.com (0345 400 2222, www.sofa.com). **Right**

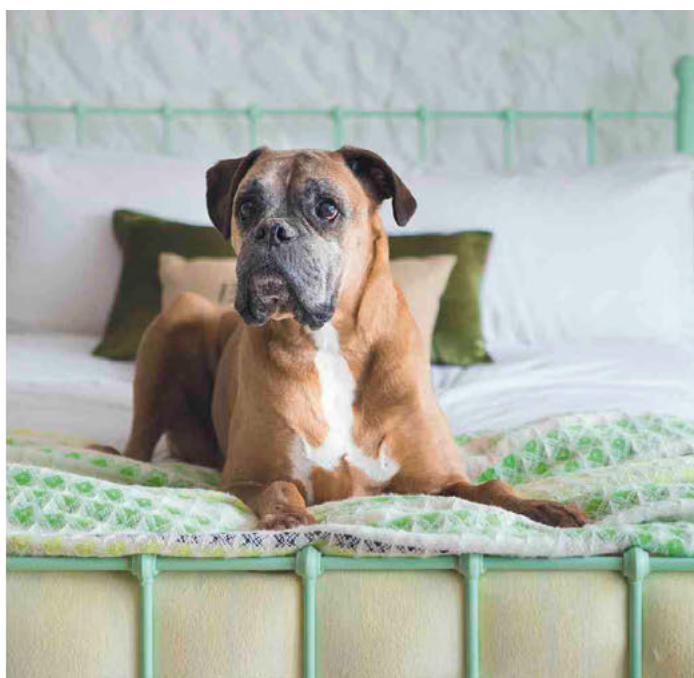
This bedroom in the former stables is injected with colour in the form of embroidered cushions and an upholstered storage chest.



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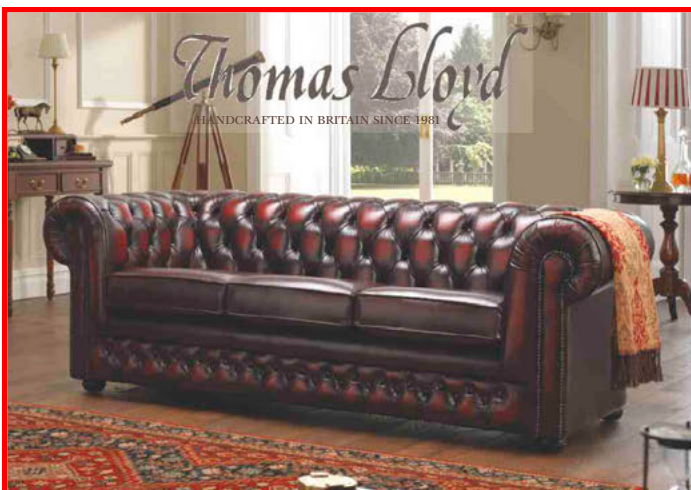
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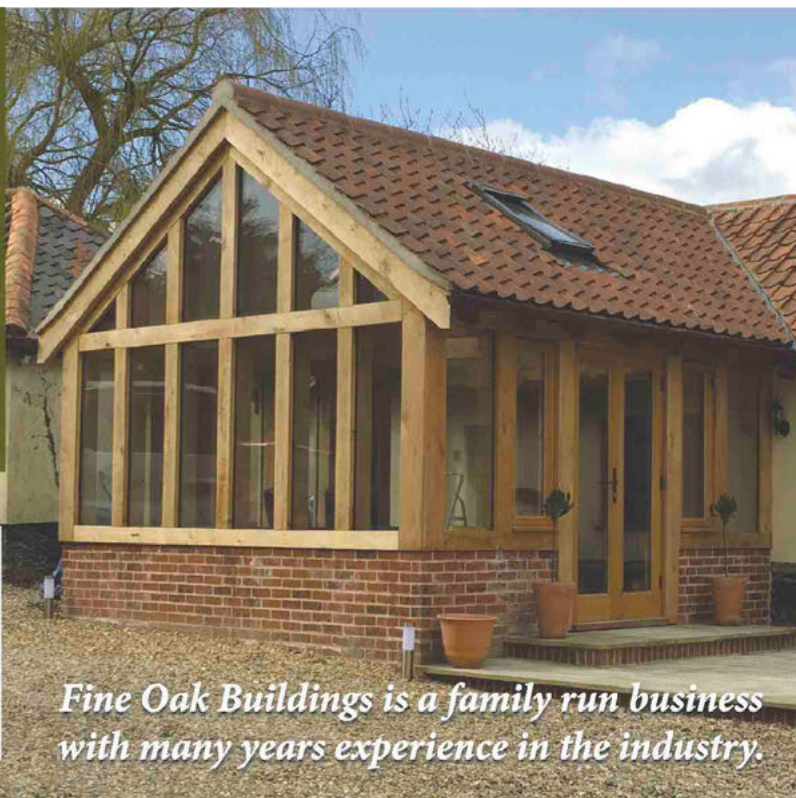
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Hydrangea cushion with embroidery and applique detailing, 40 (w) x 30cm (d), £39, Susie Watson Designs.



Gunnebo Nordic white side table with three shelves, 66 (h) x 40 (w) x 55cm (d), £295, Oka.



Soft and cosy basketweave throw in light grey with tassel fringing, 127 (w) x 152cm (d), £20, Bhs.



Set of three hand-woven natural grass trunk baskets from Tine K Home, £65, Idyll Home.

STYLISH IDEAS

Team calming green tones with prints and textures to recreate Lucy's relaxing bedroom



Palm Leaf Apple Green cotton curtain fabric, £48 per m, matching wallpaper also available, Laura Ashley.



Samphire upholstered bedstead, 135 (h) x 137 (w) x 201cm (d), from £645, Button & Sprung.



Hector medium table light in natural, 57cm (h), £145, also comes in green and blue, Original BTC.



Country Lane hilltop scene framed print by Janice McGloine, 52 (h) x 107cm (w), £100, John Lewis.

ABSOLUTE BEGINNER

Novice decorator Sara Hamilton created a vintage vibe to her family home with plenty of research and hard work

FEATURE RENÉE GREEN PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID GILES

Refurbishing the home she bought after her divorce proved a learning curve for Sara Hamilton. 'As a paediatrician, I'm trained to make important decisions in my field. But I had never chosen tiles, floorboards, kitchens and bathrooms, or done house refurbishment, and lacked confidence in these areas,' she says.

Sara enlisted the expertise of her friend and architect Johanna Ahrberg Jackson. 'I wanted one communal space in the house to accommodate the needs of an eight year old, a 23 year old and a 40 year old – all of whom are very sociable,' says Sara. 'Johanna advised me to take down three walls – two separating the kitchen from the lounge and another separating the bathroom from the lounge.'

Creating the new open-plan kitchen, sitting room and dining area cost a metre from the bathroom – though raising the ceiling balanced >>

Key facts



THE OWNER Sara Hamilton, who is a paediatrician, lives in the property with her stepdaughter, Emma, 23, and son, Arun, eight.

HER HOME Garden flat in an Edwardian semi-detached house in Muswell Hill, North London, built in 1910.

PURCHASED 2006.

WORK COMPLETED Three walls were knocked down to create a new open-plan communal kitchen, sitting room and dining area.



Get
the
look
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Style advice

'Hang lights asymmetrically and low, replacing the rubber flex with fabric to transform them into something more elegant.'





the appearance. 'Removing the kitchen wall improved the area and made four months living with rough floorboards, a temporary kitchen and a bath in the garden almost worthwhile,' says Sara.

An ugly built-in wardrobe was removed from her bedroom and replaced with a workbench-come-chest of drawers; her great dresses are displayed on an old coat stand. 'I like the unconventionality, the turning expectations upside down. Just don't open the door to the en-suite shower room or the contents of the former wardrobes will fall out,' Sara laughs.

LEARNING ON THE JOB

Further storage in the form of a useful hallway cupboard was also created, along with seating areas and lighting schemes. 'I didn't think I needed fancy lighting and just relied on candles. But now I get the same mood-altering experience with the flick of a switch and the turn of a dimmer knob. I am forever grateful to Johanna for this!'

Sara's medical research skills proved transferable, and she spent hours researching authentic floorboards. 'It was a huge and expensive decision but I'm very pleased with the result – it makes >>

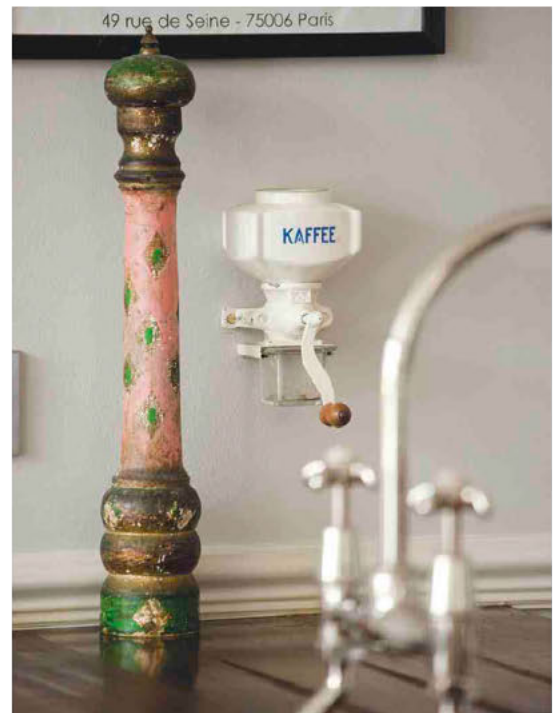


The wooden work surface complements the understated Tim Moss kitchen (020 8444 9911, www.timmoss.co.uk). 'The iroko wood is reclaimed from a laboratory. As a scientist, I love having old lab worktops in my kitchen,' says Sara. The pendant lights were from Retrouvius (020 8960 6060, www.retrovius.com).



Below from top The silver nickel La Loire kitchen mixer tap came from Catchpole & Rye (01233 840840, www.catchpoleandrye.com). Sara had gone in search of taps when she came across these salvaged tractor seats from Lassco (020 7394 8061, www.lassco.co.uk). Along with the worktop and lights, she really enjoyed

mixing these salvage finds with the elegant kitchen. **Far left** The vintage tone of the aged and distressed whitewashed oak floor does not detract from the various types of wood around the flat. The pendant light above the dining table is from Howie & Belle (020 8969 1547, www.howieandbelle.com).



'At home I endeavour to be free, creative and inventive – following no rules and defying convention. This is in total contrast to my job'



Above from top Paying homage to Sara's medical background is a mahogany pharmaceutical unit, which uses the height of the room without taking up precious floor space, and is used to store spices, lentils and vintage china. The silk curtains from the Arkona

collection by Harlequin at Changing Curtains (020 8340 9801, www.changingcurtains.co.uk) were chosen to frame the garden view by day, while at night they create a 'Japanese silk screen wall'. The Kurt Ostervig armchair lends a nostalgic vibe.

a huge impact on the living space,' she says. She applied the same practice to selecting kitchen taps. 'I knew nothing about taps and they were obviously going to be highly visible,' says Sara. Tim Moss, who built the kitchen, gave her a book and she became a 'tap nerd', spending an evening on call with a medical student teaching him about the different shapes and styles.

GETTING THINGS RIGHT

Sara has stories for every purchase and selection, emphasising her blatant enthusiasm for the project. The kitchen was straightforward: 'When I walked into Tim's workshop, I instantly fell in love with his designs. But it took me months to choose the right colour; I refused to go for safe creams and beiges. Tim humoured my deliberations – I would stagger into his workshop with planks of iroko, an oak floorboard and trailing silk fabric,' she says.

A trip to a bathroom warehouse, searching for a roll-top bath, found Sara and two friends sitting in several tubs (fully clothed), trying to find one that wouldn't overwhelm her son, but would offer her an ideal 'grown-up' bath. Another time she gave a bunch of tulips to a sales assistant for occupying Arun while she was making decisions about salvage pendant lights and reclaimed wood. And then there is her bed, discovered in a vintage boutique. 'The woman said she'd only sell it to someone who promised not to replace the 100-year-old faded and ripped rose fabric. It was so beautiful it took my breath away.'

CREATIVE FLAIR

Sara now has an impressive collection of vintage finds. 'I arrived here with only a cot, bed, table and two chairs, plus hand-me-down sofas from friends. Then one day, before a dinner party, I went to a local antique store and bought side tables and an armchair – fed up with having neither – while the dhal cooked,' she says.

Sara's ad hoc styling is genuine, as is her enviable selection of retro furniture. 'At home, I endeavour to be free, creative and inventive – following no rules and defying convention. This is in total contrast to my job, which entails being precise, with little emphasis on aesthetics.'





The simple Hans Wegner sofa does not clash or compete with its surroundings and converts into a comfortable bed for overnight guests. The art is a collection of work by Arun, Emma and Sara's father, with prints by Picasso and Klint.

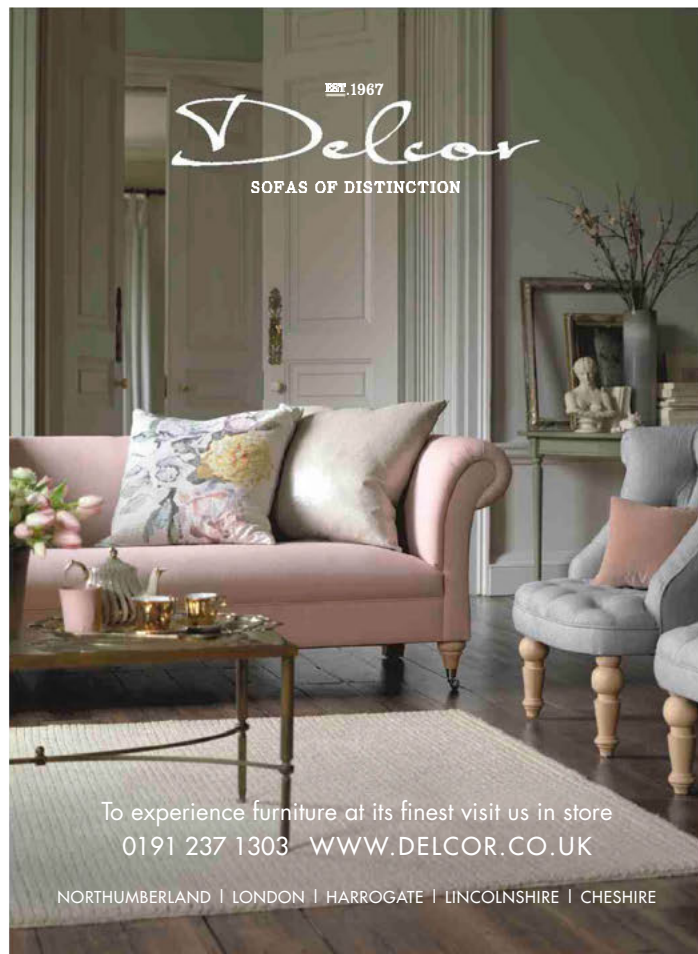


Above The soft greys, browns and greens in the bathroom were inspired by the Lake District and North Wales landscape. The suite came from Aston Matthews (020 7226 7220, www.astonmatthews.co.uk). **Above right** Sara's feminine and serene retreat owes much to the stunning deep blue walls. 'Architect Johanna Ahrberg Jackson (07967 621304, www.bibidu.co.uk) was firm that I should create a room for me, although it inevitably gets invaded by my children,' says Sara. The vintage bed is from Howie & Belle (020 8969 1547, www.howieandbelle.com). **Right** Sara loves the irony that drawers in this vintage French carpentry unit from Little Paris (020 8340 9008, www.littleparis.co.uk), originally designed for nails and tools, are now used for storing delicate underwear.





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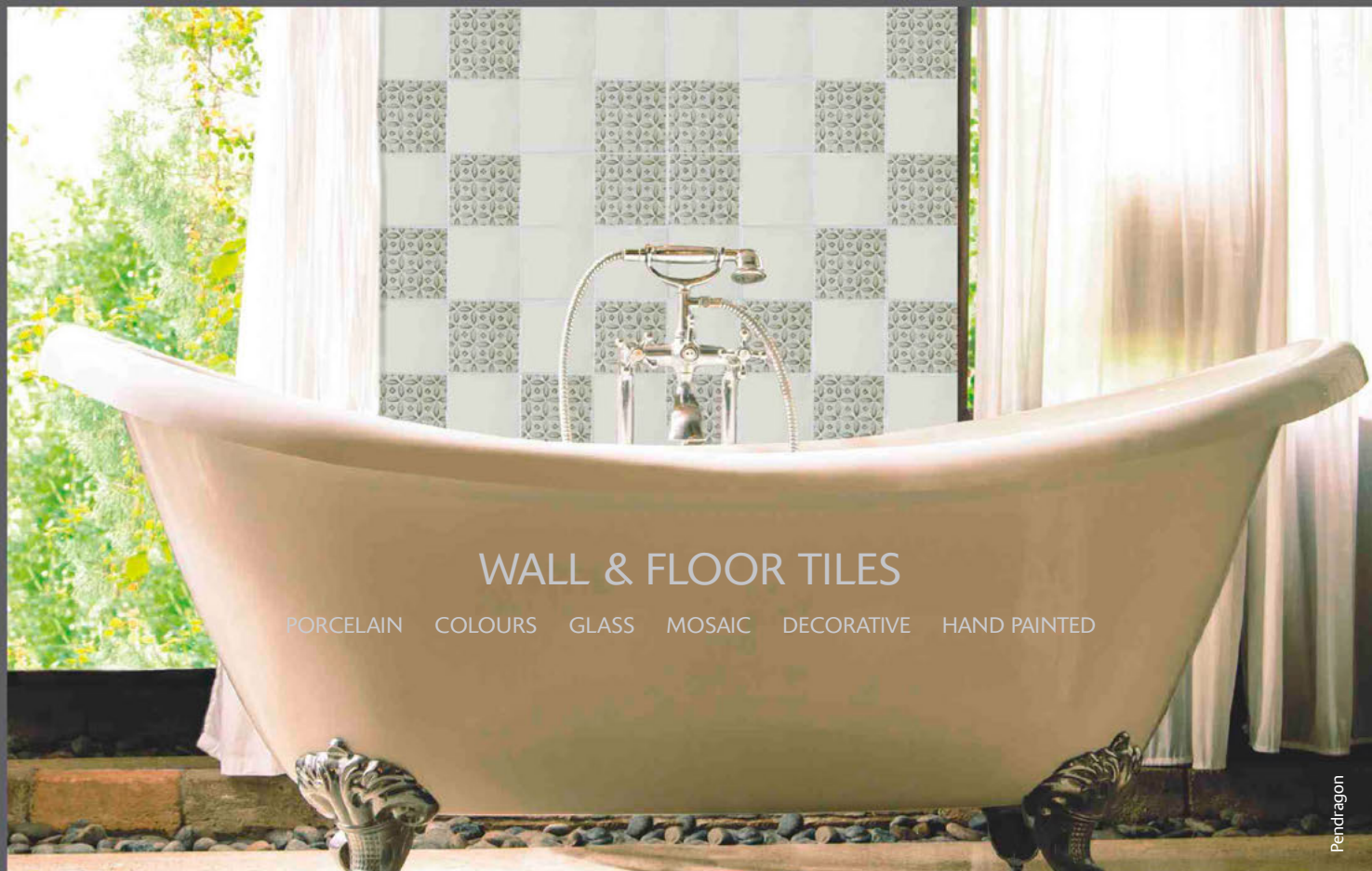
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Carey prismatic pendant light with a ribbed glass dome shade, 22 (h) x 30.5cm (w), £100, Fritz Fryer.



Reproduction print of Mark Rothko's 1949 painting with a dark wood frame, 80 (h) x 60cm (w), £110, John Lewis.



Newgate Bordeaux wall clock made from tin with black Roman numerals, 50cm (dia), £80, Red Candy.



Pining Away printed cushion on an aqua-coloured background, 45 (w) x 45cm (d), £85, In-Spaces.

STYLISH IDEAS

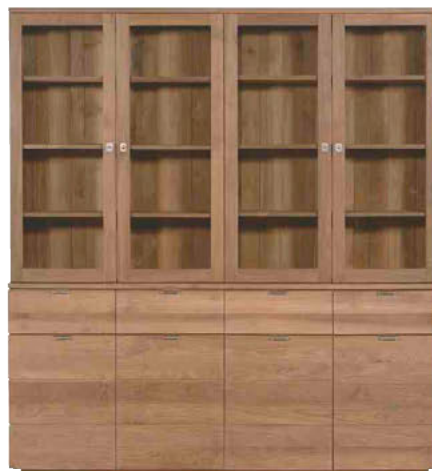
Copy Sara's stylish interior by mixing and matching one-off pieces with vintage finds



Fleetwood three-seat sofa bed in Slate Highland Tweed, 87 (h) x 212 (w) x 90cm (d), from £580, Sofa.com.



Dolly metal tractor seat stool with a rustic iron finish and authentic detailing, 66cm (h), £150, Out There Interiors.



Large solid teak dresser by Ethnicraft from the Groove collection, 217.5 (h) x 200 (w) x 45cm (d), £3,419, 4Living.



Glass jar with lid in Shutter blue, 16cm (h); and square jar in Clay, 12cm (h); both £3.50 each, Garden Trading.

Style advice

You can never have too many cushions. Adding a new cushion to a sofa or chair is the perfect way to give a room an instant update.





CREATIVE CHARM

Emma Carrett has used her artistic talent and love for design to create a unique and stylish family home in the heart of the Somerset countryside

FEATURE & PHOTOGRAPHY JO SHELDRAKE

When Emma Carrett was given the opportunity to move in to the home she had been born in, and where she had spent most of her happy childhood, she was delighted, not least because it meant she would be close by to her parents in the heart of the glorious Somerset countryside she has always adored. Six years on and there's no looking back. 'I know I made the right decision to move here. This peaceful setting is so familiar to me and it is such a wonderful place to bring up my girls,' she says.

GALLIC CHARM

The property in question is a single-storey Grade II-listed lodge, which over time has been extended to result in a rather interesting shape, which flows from room to room. It has a wraparound garden plus a separate secret garden reached through a wooden gate, which adds a quirky aspect to the property. Emma has always >>

Key facts



THE OWNER Emma Carrett, who lives in the house with her children Lily, two, Willow, one, her stepson Lewis, 15, and the family dog, Max.

THEIR HOME Detached Grade II-listed lodge in Somerset.

PURCHASED 2008.

WORK COMPLETED The lodge was in sound structural condition when Emma moved in, so she has been able to channel her creative energy into decorating and indulging her passion for salvaging unwanted furniture to give it a new lease of life.

An occasional table in the hallway was a horrible brown tired old thing before Emma got her hands on it. 'Sticking to a light colour scheme in the compact kitchen (right) helps to create a feeling of light and space,' says Emma.



'I am a decorating fanatic and love creating simple and practical pieces from salvaging unwanted and disused furniture – it's such a rewarding pastime'

felt the lodge benefits from a distinct French style, which is where she has drawn much of her decorating inspiration from.

After she moved in, the first project was to repaint the shutters and porch, transforming the original bright green colour to a softer sage green, emulating the French feel that Emma aspires to. 'Once this was done I couldn't wait to get started on decorating the interior and putting my own stamp on our new home,' she says.

CREATIVE TOUCH

Having studied art and fashion at university, Emma's creative flair shines throughout her beautifully decorated and furnished home, which echoes both simplicity and elegance. 'I am a decorating fanatic and love creating simple and practical pieces from either salvaging unwanted and disused furniture or from raw materials, like the driftwood towel rail I made for the bathroom,'

she says. 'Making things yourself is a great money saver. It is so rewarding when I finish working on something and it is not only beautiful but useful around the home.'

All of these interesting and creative pieces, which form the basis of Emma's furniture business, Ivagray Interiors, are complemented by a muted palette of soft grey tones, which emanates a sense of space, calmness and light. Throughout the house there are examples of Emma's artistic and imaginative handiwork such as the lovingly restored dining table and chairs. 'The set came second-hand from a junk shop,' says Emma. 'It was all in an uninviting dark wood finish, so after sanding it down and treating it with finishing oil, I decided to partly paint it in grey and leave the rest in natural wood.'

'I believe the finishing touches make all the difference to a piece of furniture, such as adding new and interesting fixtures and fittings, like >>



Style advice

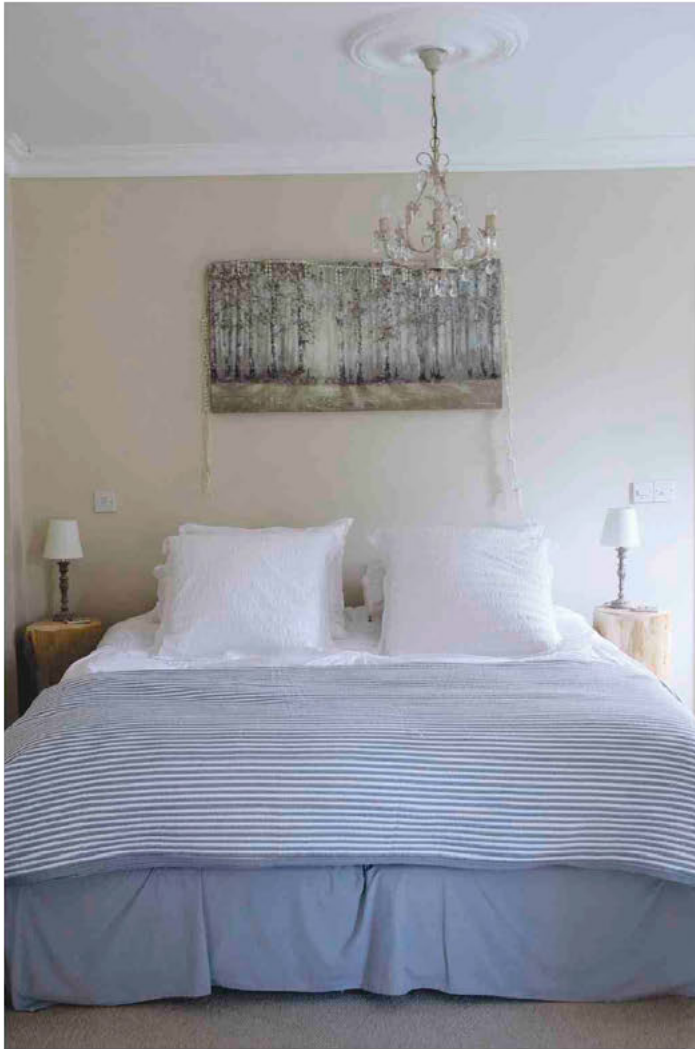
'Keep it simple. I have used soft grey shades, washed woods and textured linens to create a relaxed, lived-in look throughout my home.'

Get
the
look
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Emma has transformed the table and chairs in the dining room into an attractive, contemporary piece of furniture. The delicate white French-style chandelier was from Next (0844 844 8000, www.next.co.uk).



This bathroom is practical with a rustic, eclectic charm. The handmade wooden towel rail is made to order by Emma at Ivagray Interiors (07947 652826).



Emma's clever use of design and her choice of colour evokes a restful atmosphere in her stylish bedroom. The hand-carved bedside tables (left) are from Ivagray Interiors (07947 652826).



'I love that the finishing touches can make all the difference to a piece of upcycled furniture – it can be as simple as adding interesting fixtures and fittings'

the vintage glass drawer knobs I used to complete a chest of drawers I upcycled.'

Transformed mirrors, shelves and picture frames embellished with pieces of dried driftwood, collected by Emma during walks on her nearby beach, adorn the walls throughout the house and give her home a coastal influence. This theme is picked up again in the master bedroom, where two bedside tables made simply from carved logs are an economical, eco-friendly and unique alternative to high street furniture.

CREATURE COMFORTS

The well-proportioned and interesting-shaped sitting room with its practical oak floor has a particularly comfortable and relaxing atmosphere. The first thing that strikes you on entering the room is that Emma loves collecting cushions. 'Cushions make such a difference to my home. I am often asked how I sit on my sofa with all those

cushions, but with the duck filling and natural linen I just mould myself into them,' she says. 'They are all by Biggie Best, which I buy from a shop called Living Pretty in Curry Rivel.'

Walking on through to the kitchen with its adjoining light-filled breakfast room, gives you the sense of a natural and sociable space for family and friends to enjoy. 'The kitchen is such an important part of a home, and having this extra room just completes it,' says Emma.

With its calm coastal tones alongside all her handmade driftwood accessories, Emma hopes to inspire others with her laidback approach to decorating. Her eye for detail has enabled her to create a place full of creative charm and individuality – a simply stylish home that also manages to be practical for her growing family.

• Ivagray Interiors stocks unusual accessories, gifts and beautiful handmade items for the home. For more information, visit the Facebook page. [@ivagrayinteriors](#)



The walls in Willow's pretty bedroom are painted in Ash matt emulsion from Designers Guild (www.designersguild.com). The bunting is from Hestercombe Gardens (01823 413923, www.hestercombe.com) and the wicker chair is from Dunelm (0845 165 6565, www.dunelm-mill.com).

'I loved decorating the girls' bedrooms with pretty accessories, bunting and cushions'



Rustic white dining chair with a slatted back and angled legs, £319 for a pair, Hampshire Furniture.



Shamley 12-light chandelier with crystal-style droplets, 71 (h) x 56cm (d), £500, Laura Ashley.



Greenwich dining table with white painted legs and oak top, 76 (h) x 160 (w) x 102cm (d), from £2,250, I & JL Brown.



Organic cotton seat pad in Malvern grey/red, with Isabella red on the reverse, 40 (w) x 40 (d), £20, Ochre & Ocre.

STYLISH IDEAS

Be inspired by Emma's charming dining room by combining whites with stripy fabrics and relaxed rustic-style furniture



Stone-effect small candleholder, 40cm (h), £21.95, a larger size is also available, Adventino.



Dar Lighting Stratford David Hunt floor lamp with an aged brass finish, £250, Wayfair.



Scandi-inspired Finlay stripe fabric in Navy, £18 per m, also comes in Cassis and Steel colourways, John Lewis.



Button-backed Finn three-seater sofa in Pine Green, 78 (h) x 200 (w) x 92cm (d), £879, Living It Up.



COLLECTOR MANIA

Alex Hailstone has brought together an upbeat mix of vintage loveliness and design-led pieces against a backdrop of quirky wall displays and colourful details

FEATURE/STYLING LOUISE O'BRYAN PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID GILES



Most people would consider anyone living in north London to be city dwellers, but for Alex and Sam Hailstone, who had previously lived in the heart of bustling Camden, moving to this neighbourhood seemed a huge step away from city living, and it took some adjusting. 'We began our property search by looking close to Camden but we soon realised we couldn't afford anything, so our search started to stretch further and further away,' explains Alex. 'When we stumbled across this area we were amazed at what we could buy for our money, so it more than made up for the out-of-the-way location.'

Stepping into this house for the first time, Alex and Sam were immediately blown away by the original features, even if they were overshadowed by some ghastly wall colours. 'The old cliché is true that you get a feeling for a property, and we both did,' says Alex. 'Everywhere we looked there were these beautiful features that took our breath away, such as the gorgeous stained-glass doors, striking fireplaces and classic cornicing. Apart from some terrible wall colours and a dated, tired kitchen, there wasn't anything we didn't like.'

FEELING SENTIMENTAL

After a nerve-wracking sealed-bid process, the couple had to wait a few more months for the sellers to find a house, but fortunately they didn't have to sell their own property in Camden straight away, giving them some flexibility. 'It also gave me some time to daydream about our plans for the house,' says Alex. 'I gathered ideas from Pinterest, design blogs and magazines and started creating schemes for each room that were fun and quirky yet in keeping with the timeless features.'

When the couple finally moved in, their first project was to decorate everywhere to keep it bright and neutral. 'We mainly stuck to white walls, but we added the odd highlight of muted colour here and there for interest,' says Alex. 'I'm a big fan of grey, >>

Key facts



THE OWNERS Alex Hailstone, a freelance graphic designer, and her husband Sam, head of SEO at OMD UK, live in the house with their son, Barnabas, who's three.

THEIR HOME A four-bedroom Victorian terrace with a stunning kitchen/diner that combines modern styling with period features.

PURCHASED 2010.

WORK COMPLETED Redecorated every room, modernised the kitchen with bespoke units and landscaped the back garden.



Style advice

Although I love to create interesting displays, I always make sure everything has a place. Storage is key when you have children.'

The couple had trouble finding a large, durable sofa that was also stylish. 'I often subscribe to form over function, but Sam is the opposite, so it took us a while to find something we both liked.' They eventually settled on this Oscar design from Loaf (0845 468 0698, www.loaf.com).



'I'm forever trying to declutter – there is definitely a bit of a hoarder in me that I try and keep at bay'

and the entire Farrow & Ball paint palette, so we stuck to similar earthy tones.' These subtle colours were also chosen to create simple backdrops for Alex's ever-growing displays of eye-catching and interesting objects and prints.

'I only display things that we love or that have sentimental value to us; everything has to have a meaning or a story behind it. Saying all this, I actually hate clutter, so in every room I have had to strike a balance between injecting personality and keeping things simple to avoid it looking chaotic,' she says. And there's no clearer example of her co-ordinated displays than in the living room, where books have been grouped in similar colours, while smartly framed prints neatly line the stairs for interest. 'Being a graphic designer I do like a nice bit of typography,' she laughs.

LAID-BACK LIVING

At the back of the house a stunning open-plan kitchen/diner, which had been knocked through by the previous owners, showcases the property's

striking period features, including the beautiful stained-glass French doors onto the garden, a traditional kitchen dresser and an impressive fireplace. 'We loved the openness of the large space and wanted to retain its laid-back living feel, but there wasn't any definition between the cooking and eating areas,' explains Alex. 'So we redesigned the layout and added a peninsular unit in the centre. I also drew up a design for the kitchen units and found a very creative carpenter who shared my vision. He came up with helpful and practical suggestions without compromising on the look. Originally I had wanted different-sized cupboards hanging from pegs so that they could be moved around but it wasn't practical, so we went for this look instead.'

The result is a bold yet classic design that complements the timeless features around the rest of the room. The units were painted in Farrow & Ball's Down Pipe while Alex injected the open shelves with a surprising splash of Farrow & Ball's Charlotte's Locks. 'I had to reign myself in from >>



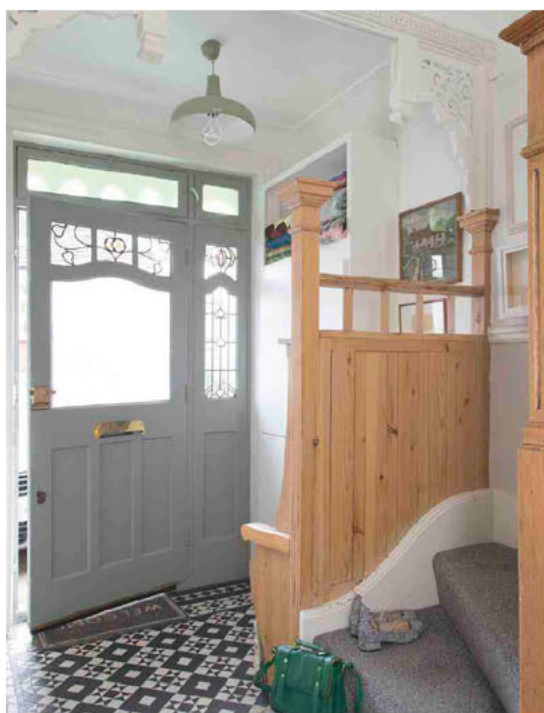
Above left and left Inspired by Pinterest and online blogs, Alex designed the kitchen units and had them built by a local carpenter. She also wanted open shelves to show off her collection of Fifties-style kitchenware and vintage tins.

Above To cosy up Barney's play corner, Alex had grey carpet fitted, while kitchen units continue along the back wall for storage. The creature cushion is by Donna Wilson (020 7749 0768, www.donnawilson.com).

Below from top The cuckoo clock was a wedding present and inspired this artful vignette on the grand fireplace. Diamantini & Domeniconi Cucu clock, £100, Occa-Home (0141 332 2890, www.occa-home.co.uk). The hallway has a wealth of original features that the couple have enhanced

with modern details.

Far right The nursery was designed around the rug Alex found on Etsy by a company called Native Craft (www.etsy.com) that made a bespoke design to her exact dimensions and colours. 'I then found finishing touches in similar colours such as cushions and lighting,' she says.





Alex's rocking chair was reupholstered in grey wool for a modern revamp. The collection of framed photos is continually growing. 'I wanted a smartly composed display so I stuck to frames in the same colour and style in different sizes,' she says.



painting the units in bright colours as I realised we would probably soon get fed up of the look. I did stick with the idea, though, of adding a few open shelves to show off our favourite objects while keeping the less pretty things hidden away,' she says. 'However since the arrival of Barnabas, we are now thinking of turning these open shelves into drawers for safety reasons.'

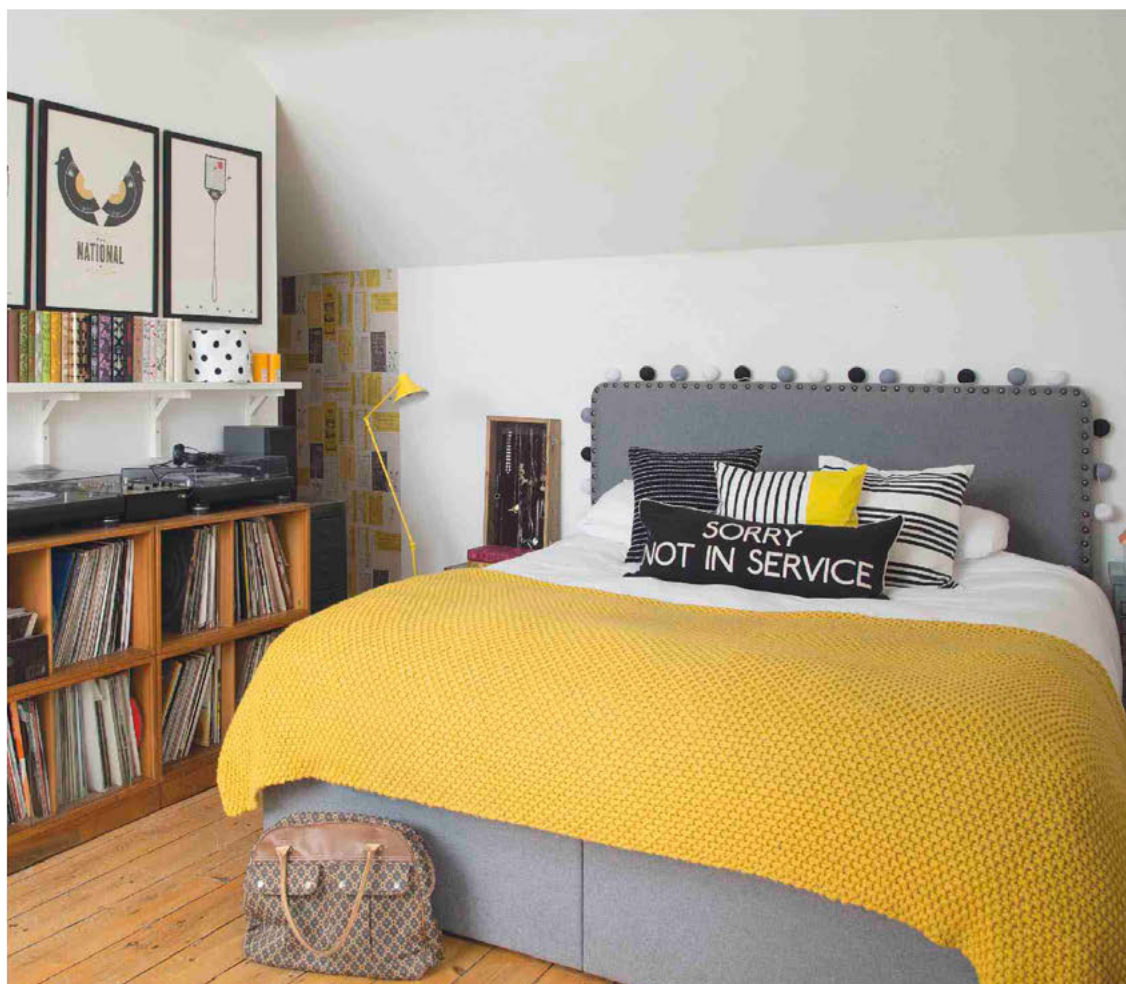
FOREVER FINDS

Her quirky displays of much-loved objects also had to make sacrifices because of prying little fingers. Fortunately, Alex has a penchant for pretty storage boxes and now uses them to hide away small and delicate items. 'I'm forever trying to declutter. There is definitely a bit of a hoarder in me that I try and keep at bay. Particularly as I'm a sucker for a vintage bargain!' says Alex. Her upcycled treasures can be seen in every room, such as the reupholstered rocking chair in the living room that Alex found on eBay, as well as family heirlooms, like the bench in Barney's room that used to belong to her mum. 'Whenever I'm on the look-out for a bargain, I always keep my mum's words in mind – "Can you leave the shop without it?" – and if I can't then I know it's a must-have. These will be the things that you really want to look at and display and keep forever.'

Other recent projects have included adding a small en suite to the loft room, which had already been converted when the couple moved in, and having the back garden landscaped in time for Barney's first steps. Alex has also had some cupboards built in the hallway to hide away the coats and shoes that inevitably get dumped there. 'You can never have enough storage in my book, particularly when you have children,' says Alex. 



Above left The Welsh blanket was an eBay bargain that brings a homely feel to the guest room. An eye-catching light draws attention to the collection of prints and objects along the fireplace, while the Eames rocker, which Alex picked up in a sale, adds a contemporary edge. **Above right** The only change in the family bathroom was new brick wall tiles, which the couple had added at the same time they did the en suite in the loft. **Right** The bed and headboard from Loaf (0845 468 0698, www.loaf.com) were a big investment for the couple. 'We decided this was an important purchase so it seemed worth the outlay,' says Alex.





Jacquard Remix grey 100% organic cotton blanket, 150 (l) x 120cm (w), also available in blue, £92.95, Edited.



Framed Drink Tea... print, other colourways available, can also be personalised, from £15.99, KICO Products.



Ben de Lisi designer grey broken geometric cushion with plain blue reverse, 42 (w) x 45cm (d), £28, Debenhams.



Kilo multicoloured nest of three side tables, with powder-coated steel top and oak legs, £70, Habitat.

STYLISH IDEAS

Recreate Alex's eclectic living room with retro-style furniture and colourful accessories



1958 footstool in Slate with solid oak legs, 40 (h) x 55 (w) x 55cm (d), £325, Oliver Bonas.



Zaragoza floor lamp with cotton micro-pleat shade and glass diffuser, 150cm (h), £179.40, Dar Lighting.



Ritchie two-seater sofa in lime green with button back, 86 (h) x 148 (w) x 85cm (d), £499, Made.com.



Chestnut oiled engineered three-layer construction planks, from £117.02 per pack, Urbane Living.

IN THE GARDEN

Gardening products, useful buys and practical ideas for your outside space

Garden prep

Dobbies Garden Centre has a wide range of products to help with your spring planting and to add a decorative touch to the garden. Tools, from £6.99; clock, £24.99; kneeler with herb print, £4.99; gloves with herb print, £1.49; herb doormat, £14.99; Rabbit O Hare cushion by Adele Fletcher, £14.99; 'Gone gardening' enamel mug, £5.99; bird herb pots, £18; 'I'm in the shed' sign, £2.99. www.dobbies.com.

JOBS TO BE DONE

Plant hanging baskets and containers for a beautiful display by summer. Finish sowing hardy annuals such as nasturtium and calendula, and divide perennials that you want to propagate. Summer bedding is now available in your local garden centre ready to plant out. Prune spring-flowering shrubs such as forsythia after they have finished flowering and give your lavender a trim; taking about 2.5cm off the current year's growth will help to encourage bushiness.



Green leaf tea anyone?

This is quite possibly the prettiest way to display herbs that we've ever seen. The china teacup and saucer, £9, by Garden Selections, comes complete with a metal spoon-shaped plant marker, ready-to-plant parsley seeds and pre-drilled drainage hole, www.notonthehighstreet.com.

Painshill (www.painshill.co.uk), an award-winning 18th-century landscape garden near Cobham in Surrey, is holding a range of events throughout the year. Augmenting your visit with a garden design workshop on 6 June (priced £65) will make a day out here truly memorable. Booking essential.

INSTANT TOPIARY

Did you know you can now order Thompson & Morgan potted buxus and bay tree spheres and pyramids through John Lewis online, all delivered direct via its approved suppliers? These buxus pyramids, 70 (h) x 25 (w) x 20cm (d), £49 each, will make an instant feature of your front door or as a focal point on the patio. www.johnlewis.com.



Investment piece

After some quality seating in the garden? This sinuous spiral seat can be used on its own or around a tree. Handcrafted from sustainable steam-bent oak, the Jubilee Spiral, designed for the Queen's Jubilee and shortlisted for the RHS garden product of the year and finalist for the Product of the Year at the Chelsea Flower Show, is priced from £8,640, www.gazeburvill.com.



WHAT'S ON

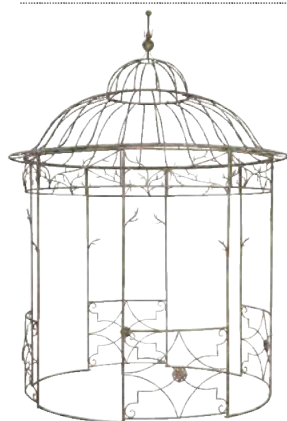
May dates for your diary

- **RHS Malvern Spring Festival**, 7-10 May: inspirational show gardens by top designers, novice festival gardens, school gardens, floral marquee, workshops, talks, plants and garden products. www.threecounties.co.uk
- **Tavistock Garden Festival**, 24-25 May: the biggest festival to date with displays, stands, advice, food and crafts. www.tavistock.gov.uk
- **Holker Garden Festival**, Cumbria, 29-31 May: designers, nurseries, gardening experts and demonstrations. www.holkerfestival.co.uk
- For **plant hunters fairs** near you, where you can discover lots of nurseries under one roof, visit www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk
- For **village group open gardens** visit www.opengardens.co.uk



A good read

RHS Grow for Flavour is a great new book by James Wong, the Kew-trained botanist and TV regular, which will help you to get great harvests that are delicious to eat, with methods that may surprise you, as he turns the tables on how to grow fruit and veg. £20, www.octopusbooks.co.uk.



A touch of romance

For a whimsical and decorative statement straight from a fairytale, imagine this Bower Gazebo draped in scented climbing roses and vines. It features intricate scrolls, emblems and metal that is twisted to give the appearance of branches. Place a bench or love seat inside to complete the scene, 280cm (dia) x 396cm (h), £1,395, www.okadirect.com.

IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS

Book now for the informative rose cultivation courses this summer by Rosebie Morton, owner of The Real Flower Company near Alresford in Hampshire. Rosebie conducts a series of day-long workshops and courses from her home in the rolling countryside. Each course costs £145 per person, runs from 9.30am to 4pm and includes coffee and lunch: 14 July – Quintessential English Day; 19 June and 20 August – Flower and Planting Inspiration Day; 25 June and 15 July – Morning Walks, £55. See website for further details: www.rosebiemorton.com.



3 OF THE BEST TEALIGHT HOLDERS



Sophie Conran boxed set of four tealight holders in blue, grey, raspberry and chalk, £12.95, Burgon & Ball.



V&A set of three stackable ceramic tealight holders, each with a different print, £16.95, Wild & Wolf.



Bird tealight holders with protective felt pads underneath, in White, Zinc, Sky Blue and Green, £6.99 each, Crocus.

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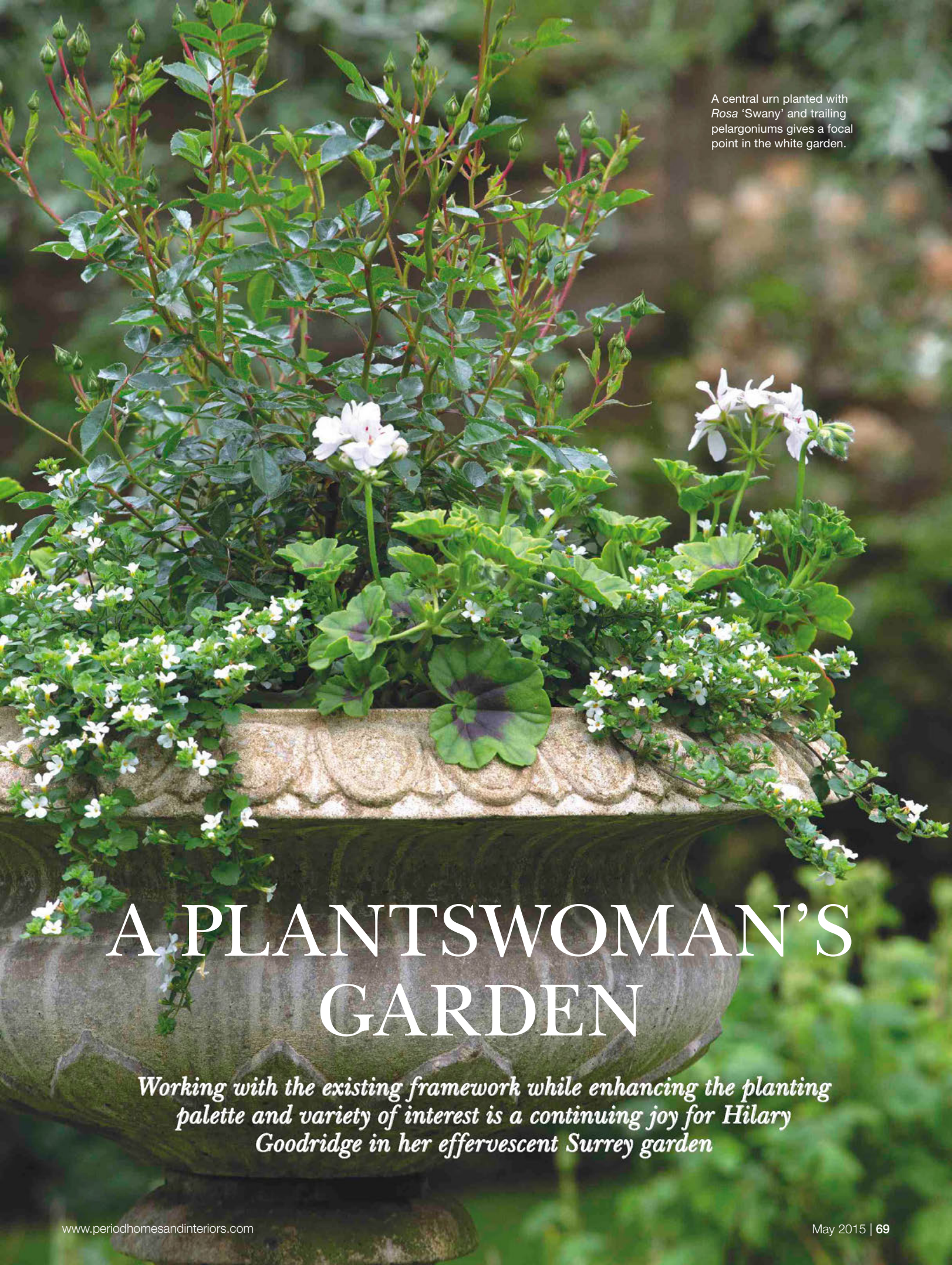
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A central urn planted with
Rosa 'Swany' and trailing
pelargoniums gives a focal
point in the white garden.

A PLANTSWOMAN'S GARDEN

*Working with the existing framework while enhancing the planting
palette and variety of interest is a continuing joy for Hilary
Goodridge in her effervescent Surrey garden*

Looking around at the sheer variety of areas and wealth of plants, there is no wonder Hilary freely admits with a smile that her garden is 'definitely high-maintenance'



Chinthurst Lodge in Surrey dates back to 1745 – with major additions between 1840 and 1895 that give the house the Victorian façade that can be seen today. ‘We spent a long time searching for a suitable house and suddenly this one came up,’ says Hilary Goodridge, who bought

the property in 1988 with husband Michael. ‘I fell in love with it as soon as I saw it,’ she smiles. ‘And even though the garden was quite big I wasn’t too daunted.’

The garden is just over one acre, faces south and stretches out from the back of the house. Beyond the garden is a five-acre field where Hilary, a keen rider, keeps her horses, and on either side of the property is farmland. The soil is sandy with undulating clay underneath, which can cause waterlogging in winter and drought in the summer. ‘It is a bit of a frost pocket and we’re exposed to winds because of all the fields around us, but we have improved the soil over many years, as we have a good supply of horse manure,’ adds Hilary.

AUGMENT AND IMPROVE

When the couple moved in to the property the garden had much of the structure you see today. ‘A white garden by the house had been started, with marked-out beds and a few ‘Margaret Merril’ roses, which we later replaced as they weren’t very successful, and the pergolas had been built,’ recalls Hilary. ‘The rest of the garden had a few shrubs, mostly hebes, but was generally overgrown with stinging nettles and mare’s tails.’ In the produce area, espaliered apples and a fruit cage were already established and there was a large vegetable plot.

With the spaces already there to start with, it wasn’t a matter of creating everything from scratch, but rather to build on and enhance, and add some new areas as they went along. ‘Our plan was to restore the garden in

stages to emphasise each area with different characteristics,’ Hilary explains. The process involved a great deal of hard work to produce the garden you see today with its rich planting palette and range of areas as you journey through the landscape. These include verdant lawns cut in a chequerboard design by Michael, curving densely planted borders, water features, pergola walkways and productive plots.

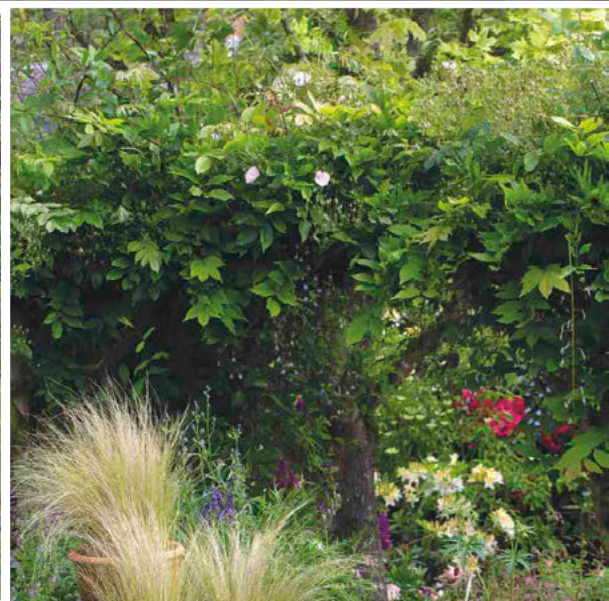
Looking around at the sheer variety of areas and wealth of plants, there is no wonder that Hilary freely admits with a smile that her garden is ‘definitely high-maintenance’. She is completely hands-on, although she has help from some fantastic gardeners that she attributes much of her knowledge to. ‘For 16 years we had an amazing gardener called Graham Titchmarsh, a very distant relative of the renowned Alan Titchmarsh. He was here for four hours a week before he got married and moved down to Devon. He taught me practically all I know,’ admits Hilary. ‘I have always been interested in gardening but I wasn’t that knowledgeable, just some self-taught experience in previous gardens through trial and error. I now do practically all the work myself plus have the help of two lovely lady gardeners.’

Visiting gardens is a favourite pastime of Hilary’s and Rosemary Verey’s Barnsley House, in particular, has been a major influence, resulting in a striking box parterre that edges the stone path leading from the white garden. It is formed of neat, geometric hedged beds infilled with Allium ‘Purple Sensation’, at their peak in May, and a selection of herbs, including chives, mint, thyme, rosemary, sage and lemon balm. ‘I >>

Opposite page, clockwise from top

The white garden has been augmented with Rosa ‘Flower Carpet White’, massed *Libertia grandiflora* and *Pyrus salicifolia* ‘Pendula’. A trio of potted *Stipa tenuissima* draws the eye as you stroll the gravel path beside the profusion of rhubarb. A range of hostas

thrives in the gravel garden, including ‘Great Expectations’ and ‘Fortunei Hyacinthina’, along with ornamental grasses. ‘Pacific Giants’ hybrid delphiniums shimmer in the vegetable garden. The well has become a decorative element, adorned with clematis and seasonal containers.



Spheres of Allium 'Purple Sensation' appear to float above a parterre that encloses an array of herbs. The formality is augmented with the weathered path, a standard bay and the rustic well.



Rather than needing a particular plant to fill a spot, Hilary admits it's the plants that drive the decisions, finding an interesting plant and then thinking about exactly where to put it

used triangular shapes for the beds with topiary pyramids along the hedging as focal points,' Hilary explains. Echoing the spires of spherical alliums is a standard bay in an elegant container. The effect is charming and almost magical, with the greens from the herbs and the deep purple balls seemingly floating above.

Other projects saw the replacement of a dying pear tree with a laburnum tunnel, which is resplendent with gleaming golden racemes in early summer, while the vegetable plot was halved in size to create more herbaceous beds for pollinating the remaining vegetables. 'We couldn't possibly eat all the vegetables that such a large patch yielded so that was one of the first things we did after we moved in,' Hilary explains. The greenhouse, sheds and fruit cage were all replaced and a pond on the lawn restored back to its former glory. At the same time, the patio leading out from the house was extended. There was a tiny area of lawn that was difficult to mow, so the couple decided that a better solution was to remove it altogether and have more paved space. To celebrate the millennium, another parterre garden was created, entered through a brick arched gate and complete with a pond.

INTRODUCING COLOUR

An unexpected feature to discover is a gravel garden, created from scratch as a response to a series of dry summers. Membrane was put down with gravel on top and holes cut out for the plants, but weeding is still needed to keep it looking neat. Hilary has found the plants that really thrive here are *Hosta sieboldiana* 'Elegans', H. 'Great Expectations' and the blue oat grasses *Helictotrichon sempervirens* and *Festuca glauca*, while

a chimney pot, sculptural pieces, a water feature and urns add further interest.

Planting all the borders throughout the garden was a major task as there was damage from the 1987 storm and both tidying up and extensive replanting was needed. At the same time, some new beds were also added and others widened. 'The white garden needed less done to it, as we

just had to add some plants and shrubs, such as *Libertia grandiflora*, 'Mme Hardy' roses, pendulous *Deutzia pulchra*, sprays of dainty *Spiraea holodiscus* and foliage foils from the white variegated *Cornus controversa* 'Variegata', silver *Pyrus salicifolia* 'Pendula' and box balls,' says Hilary.

She tries to concentrate on using different colour schemes for each herbaceous border in the garden. In one, yellow and blue is maintained by aconites, anemones, daffodils and *Acer negundo* 'Variegatum' in spring, melding into yellow roses such as 'Graham Thomas', along with spires of delphiniums, tree peonies and campanulas in summer.

From the yellow and blue

border, the colours progress through the garden to pinks and then in the vegetable patch it's mainly splashes of blues from 'Pacific Giants' hybrid delphiniums vying for attention with the neat rows of lettuces, rhubarb and runner beans scrambling over tripods.

With the beds throughout the garden, rather than needing a particular plant to fill a spot Hilary admits it's the plants that drive the decisions, finding an interesting plant and then thinking about exactly where to put it. 'I'm on the lookout for plants all the time, but I don't just dash out and buy them. What I like to do instead is go to National Trust houses or any specialist plant centres and see if something unusual

>>

GROWING ADVICE FROM HILARY

- *Prune at the right time for the plant.*
- *Mulch in winter with compost or manure to slow down the weeds.*
- *Manure is best for the herbaceous; compost for the veg patch; herbs and rhododendrons like manure.*
- *Think about the final size of plants and shrubs to prevent overcrowding.*



catches my attention. I am constantly searching, so when I like something I just go for it,' she says.

TRIALS OF NATURE

The process of transforming the garden has been pretty smooth sailing, without many challenges. 'The badger is the worst enemy in our garden, as it digs up the lawn – it has been World War III in the past!' she says. Daphne is a shrub that Hilary has had no luck with, lupins are a struggle and some cuttings haven't succeeded or rot off with mildew in the greenhouse. 'Disease is always something that worries me. I hate spraying things, although sometimes they need it,' she adds.

Through her experience of learning as she went along has come a sound practical knowledge. 'Don't be afraid of vigorous pruning at the right time of year, as plants usually come back with a vengeance. Saying that, once I was a bit too vigorous and killed a white wisteria – on that occasion I was a bit too over-enthusiastic. Maybe it was struggling a bit anyhow,' she smiles.

The most recent projects include removing several large fir trees to let in more light and where an enormous 60ft eucalyptus blew down the area is being replanted with grasses, such as *Penstemon alopecuroides* 'Hameln', miscanthus and *Molinia caerulea* 'Poul Petersen'. Hilary is also planning a wildflower bed in the millennium garden, focusing on cow parsley.

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Each season has its highlights, whether it's the spring bulbs, herbaceous and roses in summer, autumn colour from *Parrotia persica* and liquidambar, or the winter-flowering plants and bright red cornus stems. 'I love the hellebores and snowdrops along the apple walk in early spring, and when they're out I walk down there every day on the way to the greenhouse just to look at them,' Hilary says.

Plenty of seats have been placed around the garden in which to relax and take in the vistas,

Opposite page, clockwise

from top left A circular pond is echoed by neatly clipped hedging. Marginal planting of *Iris sibirica*, *persicaria*, *Rheum palmatum* and *Peltiphyllum peltatum* fringes a pond, backed by the sheen of orange and gold deciduous azaleas. For many years, the whimsical

scarecrow has overlooked the kitchen garden. Beans scramble up tripods and borders billow with early colour. A bench snuggled into the arbour of the gravel garden invites you to soak up the atmosphere. Crimson *Valeriana officinalis* makes a striking combination against yellow laburnum racemes.

3 essential plants



• ALLIUM

Purple spherical flowers. Plant bulbs in a sunny spot in well-drained soil. Drought tolerant. £3.25 (10 bulbs), www.gardens4you.co.uk.



• DELPHINIUM

Glorious flowers in purples, blues and pinks. Plant in a sunny spot that won't be waterlogged in winter. £3 (30 seeds), www.larkspur-nursery.co.uk.



• DEUTZIA

Elegant flowering shrub. Grow in full sun to part shade in moist, well-drained soil. £9.99 (3-litre pot), www.crocus.co.uk.

which are punctuated with seasonal containers or sculptural detailing. 'I love to sit in the millennium garden at dusk when it's quiet. I can hear the horses and watch the fox wandering across the field. Sitting in the gravel garden is also tranquil and whenever we can we eat outdoors on the patio, overlooking the white garden,' says Hilary.

For 22 years the couple have shared their garden with visitors through the National Gardens Scheme, enjoying the opportunity to chat with like-minded people, many of whom are returning visitors who have followed the progress of the garden. 'Visitors say it is tranquil and also gives them inspiration for their own gardens, while many comment they can see the passion that goes into it. People are always amazed at my edges, perfect on garden opening day – I do them all the day before using a tiny hoe; I nearly gave myself heat stroke on one occasion as I didn't put a hat on!' smiles Hilary. 🇬🇧

OPENING TIMES

Chinthurst Lodge, Wonersh, Surrey GU5 0PR.

• The garden is open to visitors Sunday 21 June and Wednesday 24 June 11am-5.30pm. Visitors are also welcome by arrangement between May and July. Admission £5; children free (www.ngs.org.uk).

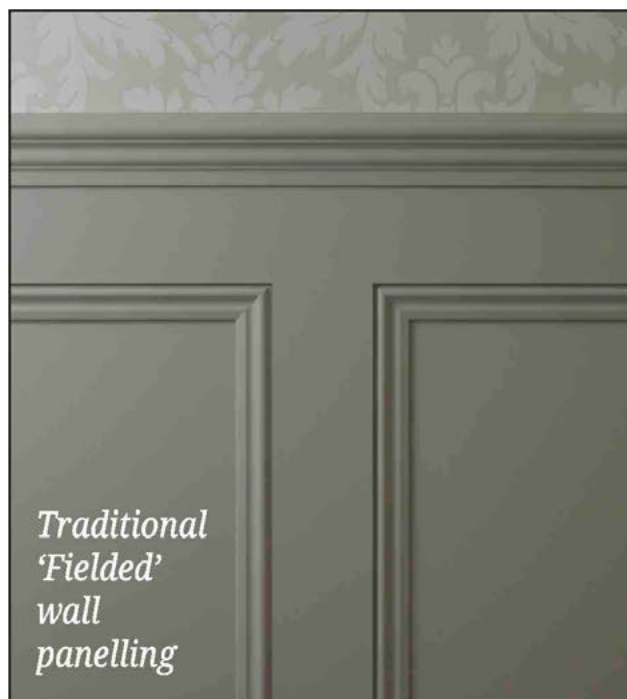


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At Home

Kitchen news • Kitchen case study • Bathroom news • Garden furniture



KITCHEN NEWS

Serve, store and cook in style this month with these must-have updates for your kitchen, plus the prettiest storage jars



BATHROOM NEWS

Upgrade your bathroom with decorative heating solutions, patterned tiles, useful storage ideas and task-specific lighting



GARDEN ROOMS

Conservatories, orangeries and summerhouses to increase your living space – plus useful finishing touches to accessorise your room



HIGHLY ORGANISED

The Hartham kitchen larder, £1,299, from Harveys, would make a stunning addition to a kitchen or dining room – or could bridge the gap between both. It has masses of storage, comes in cream, as shown, and will accommodate all your ingredients and gadgets. It measures 190 (h) x 112 (w) x 65cm (d). www.harveysfurniture.co.uk.



IN THE KITCHEN

Store, serve and cook in style with the most elegant and classic designs for the kitchen

Service in style

Platters, placemats and boards are a welcome addition to any kitchen cupboard and are particularly useful for outdoor dining – save your best china for indoors. We love the slate mats and wooden boards from Garden Trading, perfect for alfresco dips and nibbles. Wooden tapas board with three pots, £30; slate serving mat, £15 for two; placemat, £18 for four; coaster, £6.50 for four. 0845 608 4448, www.gardentrading.co.uk.



DARK GOOD LOOKS

There's a strong trend for very dark, almost black, colour schemes for kitchen cabinetry. It's a striking style statement that works perfectly with natural wood or stonework surfaces, reclaimed wooden shelves and simple, utilitarian wall tiles. This kitchen is from British Standard by Plain English. Choose, design and order online to fit and install yourself, or commission a professional to do the job for you. An average kitchen is from £7,000; a two-door tall larder cupboard is £1,200. www.britishstandardcupboards.co.uk.

FEATURE LINDA PARKER

The new Tate range of casseroles and pans by Stellar are possibly the best in the world, with clever flat glass lids that allow for easy draining and storage. From £40 for a 16cm saucepan. www.onestopcookshop.co.uk.



Put the knife in

The Radford Bright polished cheese knife set, £85, by Robert Welch, would make a perfect wedding or anniversary gift for friends or family and is a lovely addition to a summer dining table.

The set comprises a hard cheese knife, all-purpose knife, soft cheese knife, two chisel knives and a Stilton scoop, and comes in an attractive oak presentation and storage box. 01386 840522, www.robertwelch.com.



3 OF THE BEST STORAGE JARS



Dragonfly ceramic painted pot, too pretty to hide behind a cupboard door, £14, Marquis & Dawe.



Set of tea, coffee and sugar cannisters with retro-style embossed pattern, 13.5cm (h), £22, Next.



Butterfly Bloom tea caddy by Wedgwood in bone china with 24ct gold decoration, 11cm (h), £70, Amara.





DESIGN FOR LIFE

Bespoke cabinetry in keeping with the period of the house has ensured this kitchen will stand the test of time

Located in the Derbyshire countryside, Sladen was already well known to Richard and Julie Colley when they moved in, as it had been in the family for two generations and Richard had grown up there. When Richard and Julie took up residence, it gave them the space they required for their three teenaged children.

The dark, north-facing kitchen was one of the last rooms to be renovated, simply because of its size and the amount of work involved. Removing a dividing wall allowed light from the south to flood in, with further light coming from the newly built summer room.

Bespoke cabinetmaker Churchwood Design worked with the couple to produce cabinetry in tune with the mid-Victorian architectural proportions and style of the house. Made from natural and painted pippy oak, the style carefully emulates that of the property's original interior doors. Extra-tall pieces of furniture, such as the dresser and the mantel over the Aga, are tailored specifically to suit the property's high ceilings.

Solid timber cabinets, doors and timber drawer boxes featuring traditional dovetail joins should ensure that the Colleys' kitchen will be good for a few more generations of their family to come.

WORDS LEIGHTON LOOP PHOTOGRAPHY HARVEY BALL



This **dresser** creates a natural link into the dining area while providing useful storage. Clever additional storage ideas include a **pull-out spice rack** within the mantel and a **baking tray drawer** within the island unit. The **pippy oak pantry cupboard** easily accommodates all the family's condiments.



‘Period room dimensions meant that off-the-peg furniture simply wouldn’t look right, so a bespoke, tailored solution made the best of our available space’



Suppliers and costs

Pippy oak and painted oak cabinetry: Churchwood Design (01298 872422, www.churchwood.co.uk). Commissions start from £20,000 (furniture only). **Worktops:** a combination of oak and Kerala Green granite, £3,623, all sourced through Churchwood Design. **Aga:** already at the property (0845 712 5207, www.agaliving.com). **Stainless steel undermounted sink:** Kohler (020 7324 0780, www.kohler.co.uk), from around £226. **Ionian pewter finish tap:** Perrin & Rowe (01708 526361, www.perrinandrowe.co.uk), from around £279.

FORMAL CHOICES

Betta Living's Maestro suite features a classic roll-top bath, complete with traditional claw feet, and costs from £2,082 as part of a complete bathroom that includes a pedestal basin and WC. We're loving the green and grey colour palette in this room – smart yet fresh. 0808 256 6920, www.bettaliving.co.uk.



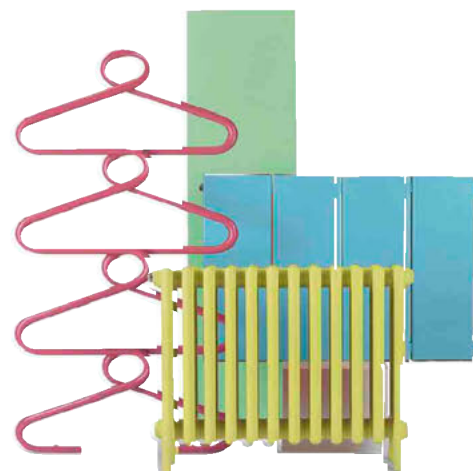
IN THE BATHROOM

Upgrade your bathroom with clever storage, a colourful radiator, decorative tiles or a new suite



Storage in style

There's no doubt that a luxurious bathroom needs to incorporate storage space for lotions, potions and magazines to read while having a seriously long soak. The three-tier Amberley occasional table, £165, from Within, does just the job, measures 80 (h) x 45 (w) x 45cm (d), and has a pale grey painted finish. 020 7087 2900, www.withinhome.com.



The heat is on

Radiators don't have to be boring if you choose one of these striking colours and shapes from Bisque. Classic in Lemon, from £540; Archibald in Rose, from £788; Blok in Steel Blue, from £792; and Arteplano in Light Green, from £875. www.bisque.co.uk.

BOX OF TREATS

A box of guest soaps is an everyday indulgence that won't break the bank, and which you can dip in to whenever you fancy a bathtime treat – don't keep them just for your guests! These are by Claus Porto, made in Portugal since 1887 using natural essences, and cost £19 for 15 soaps, from The Conran Shop. 0844 848 4000, www.theconranshop.co.uk.



Porcelain patterns

There are 12 pattern variations to choose from in the new Skynos range of porcelain floor and wall tiles from Tile Mountain. Each tile measures 44 x 44cm and costs £18.99 per sq m. Team with plain tiles if you want to pull back on the pattern a little – try a border along the bath or basin or a rug-style patterned design in the centre of the floor. 01782 223822, www.tilemountain.co.uk.

3 BRILLIANT IDEAS FOR BATHROOM LIGHTING



Tip Keep pretty soaps in their boxes until you need them to stop them drying out

and losing their fragrance. If you want to display them, use an airtight clear glass storage jar – search online for cookie jars. Our go-to place to shop is www.dotcomgiftshop.com.

FEATURE LINDA PARKER



From left: Chort wall light with glass shade, shown in a polished nickel finish, from £295;

Wesley decorative downlight, not to be used directly above a shower, other finishes are available, 16cm (dia), from 125; Abbotsford three-light chrome ceiling fitting with white glass dome shades, £395; all Christopher Wray.

For stockists
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A breath of fresh air

Let **SEBO** take the hard work out of housework

SEBO vacuum cleaners help make cleaning easy. Light to push, with comfortable handles and long cables, using them is a breeze. High technology filtration ensures that all the dust they capture is safely trapped inside, protecting you and your family against harmful allergens, as well as keeping your home clean. Some models even filter out odour, which is great if you have pets.

As the world leader in professional upright vacuum cleaners, **SEBO** knows how to make reliable, high performance machines. Made in Germany, they are built to last, so you can enjoy their user friendly design for a long time, which makes a refreshing change these days.



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Design



SEBO – the vacuum cleaner professionals

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www.sebo.co.uk 01494 465533



Made in Germany

Time to relax outdoors

Dining outdoors is one of the greatest pleasures of the summer, so get organised with some new garden furniture to create a comfortable experience

If, like many of us, you're tempted to buy one-off pieces of garden furniture from antique sales, eBay and salvage yards, it's likely that you've accumulated a higgledy-piggledy selection of mismatched chairs, benches and loungers that are never quite the right height, or big enough to let the whole family plus guests sit down in harmony. Avoid the last-minute chaos by investing in some co-ordinated sets that will ensure alfresco events will be serene and organised.

Storage is often the issue when larger tables and non-folding chairs are concerned. It's always worthwhile investing in covers if you have no easily accessible storage available. Most garden furniture is designed to be weatherproof, although there will be an element of deterioration and fading, especially with timber furniture. Hardwood is the best investment, with teak and oak being particularly hardwearing and long-

lasting. Teak is usually supplied with a protective oiled finish, which will need to be renewed every year or so to maintain a rich golden-brown look. However, it can equally be left to its own devices and will fade to a silvery-grey, with no detriment to its longevity. Powder-coated steel furniture is also a good buy;

*All-weather
rattan furniture
is made from
woven vinyl strips
over a metal
frame – it's tough
and virtually
indestructible*

there's a good selection of mosaic-tiled sets around this season (try TJ Hughes and most garden centres, as well as the ones we've shown overleaf), which are very tough and can be left outside in all weather.

If you're struggling for space, look at bistro sets with folding chairs, as even a balcony or tiny terrace can be transformed into a little haven of restorative peace for that evening

glass of wine. Ikea has a balcony table that can be folded down when it's not in use (see overleaf).

Remember to choose weatherproof fabrics for seat pads and ensure you dry them properly in the sun after any downpours to avoid mould creeping in.



Above Hardwood dining furniture is an excellent long-term investment buy. Longstock dining table and six stackable chairs in FSC-certified teak, £1,499, John Lewis. A rectangular table, two-seat bistro set, bench and steamer chair is also available. www.johnlewis.com.

5 OF THE BEST Timeless, elegant furniture choices for outdoor entertaining



- 1. Butler's tray** Make light work of outdoor dining with a useful lift-off butler's tray. The Hambledon oak butler's tray by Garden Trading is 70 (h) x 58 (w) x 45cm (d), £125, from Amara.
- 2. Bench** Just right for admiring the view or paired with a dining table. The Indu green metal bench, £250, from Habitat, is made from galvanised steel and measures 85 (h) x 124 (w) x 57cm (d).
- 3. Elegant chair** An unusual chair that will look at home on the terrace or under a rose arbour. Tendril chair with twisted finish and unique scrolled vine design, £125; a love seat and bench is also available, Oka.
- 4. Folding table** A pretty table that would be equally useful in the conservatory and in the garden. Pale green steel folding table, 76 (h) x 59cm (dia), matching chairs and bench also available, £99, English Abode.
- 5. Stone-topped table** A sturdy table will last a lifetime. Monaco granite-top table, 72 (h) x 170 (w) x 95cm (d), £585, Neptune.

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Teak garden furniture will weather naturally over time to a beautiful silvery-grey colour

BALCONY PRACTICALITIES

A tiny balcony table can be positioned to catch the sun and provide that all-important boost of fresh air for a positive start to a busy day. The **Askholmen** balcony set (table and two folding chairs) from Ikea costs **£45**, and will suit any tiny space. The table measures 71 (h) x 70 (w) x 44cm (d), and the long top edge should be attached to a wall. It's made in solid acacia wood with an acrylic stained finish. Matching items include a square table and four chairs, plus a trellis panel, plant stand and flower box. www.ikea.com.



TILED TOPS

If flowers and foliage aren't a strong point in your garden, add a splash of colour to brighten up a paved or gravelled area with the vivid indigo-blue shades of the **Katerina** ceramic mosaic tiled table and chair set, **£599**, from Marks & Spencer. The four chairs have water-repellent navy blue seat pads and the frames are in black steel. A fire pit and smaller bistro table and two-chair set is also available. www.marksandspencer.com.



FAMILY-SIZED DINING

Make sure everyone can sit comfortably by choosing a combination of pieces from the **Wilko** FSC-certified range from Wilkinson. The range includes an oval table, round table, two-seater benches, dining chairs with arms and folding no-arm chairs. The round table measures 74 (h) x 90cm (dia); the oval table is 74 (h) x 150 (w) x 90cm (d); and prices are from **£40** for a bench to **£100** for the round table and four-chair set, and **£150** for the oval table and six-chair set. Seat pads and furniture covers are also available. www.wilko.com.



OUTDOOR RATTAN DINING SET

The **Lola** all-weather rattan dining set from Tesco Direct has the looks and appeal of old-fashioned colonial-style furniture, but with the advantage that it won't go black and deteriorate in the rain. The table measures 74 (h) x 150 (w) x 100cm (d) and is glass-topped, while the frame is aluminium. Matching cushions/pads are available, and also a garden sofa suite if the idea of spending the day lounging outdoors is appealing. The set comprises a table and six chairs and costs **£950**. www.tesco.com.

BREAKFAST BISTRO SET

A bistro set (which is a two-person table, usually circular, and two chairs) is often a good budget buy, and need not be restricted to a small garden or balcony. We love the idea of investing in a couple of sets, positioned to catch the sun at different times of the day – early morning for a sunny breakfast and at sundown for a night cap. The **Flores** metal set, **£89**, from B&Q, shown here in white, is also available in black and, usefully, the chairs are stackable. The table measures 71 (h) x 70cm (dia). www.diy.com.



INVEST IN TEAK

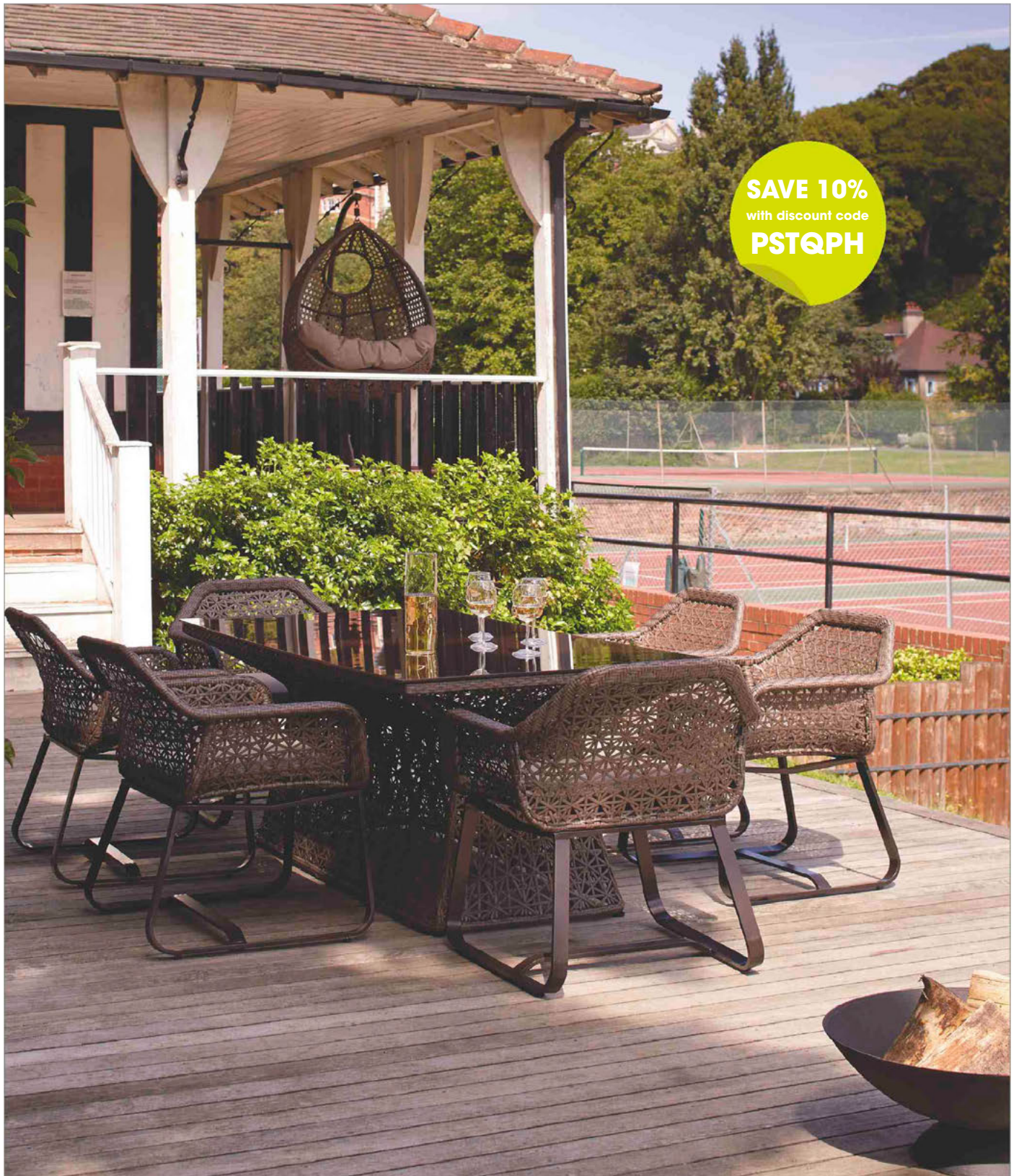
Outdoor furniture from Gloster is an investment buy that won't disappoint. As well as the very contemporary steel and fabric designs, there is an extensive collection of timeless simple designs in teak. This **Square** bench dining set from Gloster is a good choice for bigger families, especially if there are youngsters around who can be persuaded to squash up a little. Table, **£2,747**; benches, **£815** each. **01454 631950**, www.gloster.com.



www.periodhomesandinteriors.com

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PSTQPH

Win tickets

to see *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* and an overnight hotel stay

We're giving one lucky reader the chance to win a pair of tickets to the new West End hit *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* at the Aldwych Theatre with an overnight stay at Park Plaza Westminster Bridge London

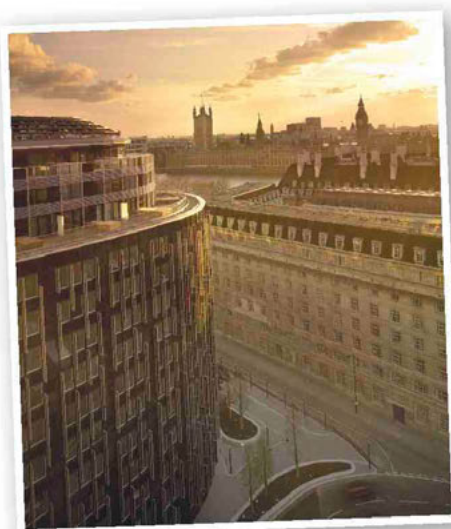
The audience loves *Beautiful...*' (Baz Bamigboye, *Daily Mail*) and critics agree. Described as 'slick and beautifully played' (*The Times*), and the 'amazing story of the songwriting talents of Carole King, told through laughter and tears' (Tony Blackburn, BBC Radio 2), critics are celebrating this 'tapestry of greatest hits' (*The Guardian*).

Long before she was Carole King, the chart-topping music legend, she was an ordinary girl with an extraordinary talent. She fought her way into the record business as a teenager and sold her first hit, 'Will You Love Me

Tomorrow', when she was just 17. By the time she reached her 20s she had the husband of her dreams and a flourishing career, writing hits for the biggest acts in rock 'n' roll, from Aretha Franklin to The Monkees and The Drifters to The Shirelles. But it wasn't until her personal life began to crack that she finally managed to find her true voice.

Beautiful tells the story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, and becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history.

Along the way, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation, with countless classics such as '(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman', 'Take Good Care Of My Baby', 'You've Got a Friend', 'So Far Away', 'It Might As Well



Rain Until September', 'Up on the Roof' and 'Locomotion'. For more information and to book tickets, call 0845 200 7981 or visit www.BeautifulMusical.co.uk.

Following the show, our winner will enjoy an upgraded stay in a Studio room at the 4.5* Park Plaza Westminster Bridge London, situated on London's South Bank and within walking distance of the city's most iconic attractions, including Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. Amenities at the hotel include a number of highly acclaimed restaurants, the Primo cocktail bar and the luxurious Mandara Spa. Visit www.parkplaza.co.uk/westminsterbridge for further details.

ENTER ONLINE BY VISITING: www.periodhomesandinteriors.com **Closing date: 31 May 2015**

Terms & conditions Entries close at midnight on 31 May 2015. All entrants must be over 18. Tickets valid for Friday and Saturday performances until 11 July, subject to availability. There is no cash alternative to the prize and it is non-transferable and not for resale. Prize includes a one-night stay in a Studio room for two people, with breakfast included, subject to availability. Additional expenses are the responsibility of the prizewinner. Travel is not included. The competition is not open to employees of MediaJamm and Kelsey Publishing Group. The draw is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Only one entry permitted per person, no bulk entries will be accepted. We reserve the right to cancel the promotion if circumstances change that are beyond our control. By entering you agree to be bound by all the rules and agree that your surname and county may be released if you win. By providing personally identifiable information when entering this promotion, you are agreeing that we may use it to provide you with on-going information about our products and services, although you can unsubscribe at any time, if you wish to do so. *Period Homes & Interiors* is a Kelsey Media brand. Kelsey Media will only ever use your information in line with its Multi Layered Privacy Notice. For full details, visit kelsey.co.uk. If you have any questions please ask as submitting your data indicates your consent, until you choose otherwise, that we may contact you about products and services that we believe to be of relevance to you.

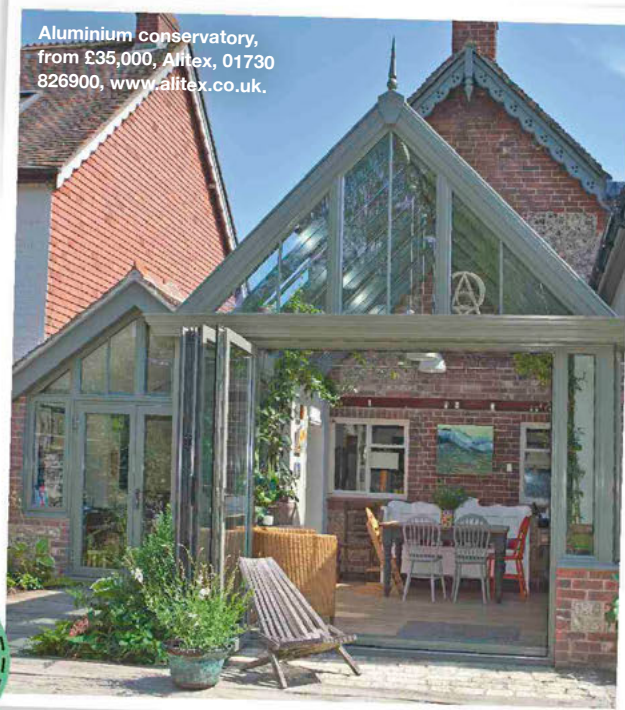
MARKET PLACE

The latest home buying and property news, facts and advice on your doorstep

A glass act

A conservatory extends your living space, lets you enjoy the garden all year round and will add value to your property. Aluminium conservatories, based on traditional Victorian structures, blend beautifully with period properties and are a good alternative to wood. Aluminium is resistant to corrosion, scratching and UV rays and therefore virtually maintenance-free. It replicates timber but doesn't require repainting like timber.

SUMMER ROOMS SPECIAL
Turn to p95



GEORGIAN GEM

With perfect symmetry, large sash windows and space, it's easy to see why Georgian properties top the list of most desired period properties. The length of the period (1714 to 1837) ensures there are plenty of houses on the market, which hold their value and remain a good investment. If you're seeking inspiration there are a number of properties that double as museums, including No1 Royal Crescent, operated by the Bath Preservation Trust (www.no1royalcrescent.org.uk).

Pictured above: Coombe Leigh, a Grade II-listed Georgian farmhouse in Chillington, Devon, is on the market for £500,000 with Marchand Petit, 01548 857588, www.marchandpetit.co.uk.

'We welcome the innovative Help to Buy ISA. A 25% top-up for the average first-time home deposit is a fantastic incentive to start saving for a new home.'

Paul Smith, CEO, Haart,
www.haart.co.uk.

Know the rules

If you're planning building work such as a loft conversion or an extension near an adjoining property in England or Wales, you must observe the Party Wall Act. It's designed to help you undertake work, such as gaining access rights to neighbouring properties, while protecting the interests of your neighbours.

The Act covers shared walls between semi-detached and terraced houses, structures such as floors between flats or maisonettes, garden boundary walls and new foundations deeper than the existing foundations of a neighbour's property. For more information go to www.gov.uk/party-wall-etc-act-1996-guidance.

DID YOU KNOW?

33%

of homeowners feel they're not climbing the property ladder as quickly as they hoped and are lagging behind in their housing aspirations.

Source Lloyds Bank,
www.lloydsbank.com.

The North of England offers
twice

as many speedy broadband streets as the South.

Source uSwitch,
www.uswitch.com.

40%

of people think that more woodland would make their local area a better place to live.

Source Nationwide,
www.nationwide.co.uk.

OUR TOP 20 PROPERTIES

Dream property



From rural living to homes with history, here's our pick of the best houses for sale

01 SEAGRY HEATH, WILTSHIRE

PRICE: £1,595,000

Newleaze Farm is a renovated Georgian farmhouse dating from 1825 that combines period character with contemporary features for luxurious family living. Set in a small hamlet close to Malmesbury, the ground floor is conveniently laid out with formal reception rooms at one end and a large kitchen/breakfast room with a more relaxed family feel at the other. The original part of the house has a galleried entrance hall, dining room, study, drawing room and an impressive utility/boot room with an Aga. The extension comprises a spacious bespoke kitchen/breakfast room with French windows leading out to a barbecue terrace and the main garden. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and three bathrooms. The master bedroom has a dressing room with an extensive range of built-in wardrobes. Approached via a gravel driveway, the property comes with a one-bedroom cottage and to the rear of the house is an enclosed courtyard with four stables, two double garages, tack room and an outdoor arena with floodlights. There are also six separate paddocks and a small pond. Savills, 01225 474500, www.savills.co.uk.



02 BOWER HINTON, SOMERSET

PRICE: £495,000

This detached Grade II-listed Hamstone property blends period features, including sash windows, flagstone flooring and feature fireplaces, with a modern extension to provide a wonderful family home. The accommodation comprises a 24-foot kitchen/breakfast room with patio doors on to the garden, a dining room and a sitting room on the ground floor. Stairs and a half-landing lead from the kitchen to the master en-suite bedroom. Across the upper floors there are four bedrooms, two of which are en suite. Two of the rooms have stairs into the attic space and there's a family bathroom. Adjoining the property is a two-storey Hamstone building used as a studio/workshop/utility/garage. To the rear there's an extensive garden, three purpose-built workshops and a further open unit. Palmer Snell, 01935 609699, www.palmer.snell.co.uk.



Do you have a beautiful period home for sale?

Email the details, plus a high-resolution image (300dpi) of the exterior to phi.ed@kelsey.co.uk. If your home is suitable for inclusion in the property section, a fee of £60 for subscribers, and £100 for non-subscribers, will be charged. Make your cheque payable to *Period Homes & Interiors* magazine (including subscription number if applicable) and send to On the Market, *Period Homes & Interiors*, Kelsey Media, Cudham Tithe Barn, Berry's Hill, Cudham, Kent TN16 3AG. We work three months in advance and properties are chosen at the Editor's discretion.

FEATURE ANDREA MANLEY PLEASE NOTE PRICES AND PROPERTY AVAILABILITY ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. VISIT THE ESTATE AGENT'S WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

03 SIDCUP, KENT PRICE: £1,300,000

The Old House is a Grade II-listed property that has been thoughtfully renovated and retains many original features. The accommodation comprises a spacious entrance hall, bespoke kitchen/breakfast room and two large reception rooms on the ground floor. There are three bedrooms, two of which have dressing rooms, and two bathrooms on the first floor. A further three bedrooms can be found on the second floor. The property also has a fantastic gated wine cellar on the lower ground floor. Outside there's a detached Victorian coach house, which offers the potential to convert into an annexe, a large detached double garage and a stable. The property is just over a mile away from Sidcup mainline station with services to London. Alan de Maid, 020 8467 2205, www.alandemaid.co.uk.



04 STEYNING, WEST SUSSEX PRICE: £1,250,000

Situated in the South Downs National Park, Old Erringham Hall is a handsome Grade II-listed detached former hall house with an historic past that dates back to the Domesday Book. On the ground floor there's a spacious entrance hall, double-aspect kitchen/breakfast room with hand-built units and access to the terrace. The dining room leads to a double-aspect drawing room with impressive brick Inglenook fireplace and there's a further sitting room with a wood-burning stove. On the first floor is a fully panelled room that could be a master bedroom or reception room and features a hidden door leading to a priest hole. There are also three bedrooms, two of which are en suite, and a family bathroom on this floor. Outside are beautiful gardens with uninterrupted views. King & Chasemore, 01403 264444, www.kingandchasemore.co.uk.



05 LYMINGTON, HAMPSHIRE PRICE: £575,000

Ella Cottage is a refurbished end-of-terrace townhouse full of period charm, located close to Berthon Marina and the Quayside. The property has reversed accommodation with a raised ground floor that comprises two bedrooms, one of which is en suite, and a family bathroom. The first floor has a triple-aspect sitting/dining room with a cathedral-style vaulted ceiling in the dining area and a kitchen with Shaker-style units and access to a raised decked area, which has a wrought-iron balustrade. There's a further bedroom on the second floor and the lower ground floor is home to a utility room and games room. There's a parking bay and a west-facing private courtyard garden with small brick-built workshop. John D Wood & Co, 01590 540067, www.johnndwood.co.uk.



06 ASTON, HERTFORDSHIRE PRICE: £850,000

The Clock House is a property with exceptional character and a central village location, situated about 3.5 miles from Stevenage. The Grade II-listed property, believed to date back to the 1700s, is in need of some modernisation and has scope to extend to make an attractive family home. The light and spacious accommodation is spread over two floors with high ceilings throughout. Downstairs there's a dual-aspect drawing room with wooden floors and large sash and arched windows, a library, dining room and kitchen. Upstairs there are three bedrooms, including an en-suite master with dressing room, and a family bathroom. The gardens are mainly laid to lawn with a selection of mature trees and shrubs. The shingle driveway leads to a double car port with self-contained flat. Strutt & Parker, 01727 840285, www.struttandparker.com.



07 ISLE OF BUTE, SCOTLAND PRICE: £595,000+

The Hermitage is a former school house and schoolmaster's house with magnificent gardens and views across the Firth of Clyde to the Ayrshire coast. The property has four reception rooms, including a medieval-themed dining room with a wonderful hammerbeam ceiling, a minstrels' gallery and ornate carved timber columns. Downstairs there's also a drawing room, open-plan kitchen and breakfast room, sitting room, pantry, laundry room, en-suite bedroom and bathroom. A handsome staircase leads to the first floor where there's a family bathroom and four bedrooms, three of which have views over the gardens, while the en-suite master bedroom has an Arts and Crafts fireplace. The gardens boast a summerhouse and a barbecue pavilion. Savills, 0141 222 5875, www.savills.com.



08 THORNBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRICE: £1,950,000

Situated in a semi-rural location, The Chalet House is set in private grounds and offers a stunning leisure wing with indoor swimming pool. Downstairs comprises a 32-foot kitchen/breakfast room and three beautiful reception rooms overlooking the grounds, complete with open fireplaces and French doors leading from the drawing room to a covered veranda. There are also two studies, a games room and orangery. Upstairs you'll find seven elegant double bedrooms, three of which are en-suite, plus a family bathroom. The lower ground floor comprises large kitchen, separate sitting room and shower room that would make ideal accommodation for a dependent relative. Outside there's a folly surrounded by an elaborate water feature and ponds. Fine & Country, 0117 946 1946, www.fineandcountry.com.



09 HARBURY, WARWICKSHIRE PRICE: £1,750,000

The Manor House is an elegant, charming and beautifully presented property with exposed beams and intricate woodwork throughout. The grand entrance hall is believed to be the oldest part of the house and has wooden panelling and flagstone flooring. There's also a drawing room, sitting room, study and billiard/library room, a swimming pool with retractable cover, a kitchen/breakfast room with pantry and a ground-floor cloakroom. On the first floor there are five bedrooms with three bathrooms and a shower room. Outside the property has a courtyard with five outbuildings, car port and double garage. Landscaped gardens surround the house and include a tennis court and a summerhouse. The village is just seven miles from Leamington Spa. Fine & Country, 01926 455950, www.fineandcountry.com.



12 LOWER COBBERTON, DEVON PRICE: £720,000

Located two miles from Totnes, this Grade II-listed stone-built former farmhouse dates back 350 years. The house has traditional charm and a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Accommodation is arranged over two floors with three bedrooms, two shower rooms and a family bathroom upstairs. A cross passage separates a ground-floor bedroom and utility/shower room, which has annexe potential, from the charming sitting room with stone fireplace, and a kitchen/dining room with oil-fired Rayburn and stripped pine floor. The sun lounge leads off the kitchen/diner and has lovely views. The rear has a south-facing sun terrace and a good-sized garden with a stream and bridges over to woodland and pasture. There are two summerhouses with electricity and a fully insulated barn. Marchand Petit, 01803 847979, www.marchandpetit.co.uk.

10 PRESTWOOD, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PRICE: £1,125,000

The White House is a charming and substantial village house, dating back to 1701. It has been extended over the years but still retains many period features, including beams, fireplaces and a brick floor. Downstairs there's a sitting room, dining room, study, family room and kitchen/breakfast room. Upstairs there are five bedrooms, including a master bedroom with dressing room and en suite, and a family bathroom. There's also a cellar. The main garden wraps around the house and is mainly laid to lawn. A gravel driveway provides convenient off-road parking for several cars and there's a side courtyard with a paved patio, a further gravelled area and a wood store. The property is about 1.5 miles from Great Missenden station. Fine & Country, 01494 711677, www.fineandcountry.com.



13 CHESTER, CHESHIRE PRICE: £1,650,000

Number 3 Sandown Terrace is a Grade II-listed Georgian gem with a riverside location close to the city centre. The stunning house offers four generous reception rooms and five well-proportioned bedrooms set over four floors. The interconnecting drawing and dining room share access to a balcony spanning the width of both rooms. The lower ground floor rooms comprise a 30ft-living/media room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, a cloakroom and access to a covered outdoor area. On the first floor is the master bedroom with en-suite and dressing room and there are three further bedrooms, one of which is en suite. The second floor provides a fifth bedroom and a bathroom. Outside tiered landscaped gardens lead to the riverside where there are mooring rights. Strutt & Parker, 01244 354880, www.struttandparker.com.

11 SHALFORD, ESSEX PRICE: £530,000

Rosebank is a delightful detached unlisted thatched cottage enjoying a rural location on the edge of this North Essex village. Set within beautiful cottage gardens, the property boasts a wealth of period features, including brick floors, open fireplaces and exposed oak framework. On the ground floor the galley kitchen opens into the dining room to make a great family/entertaining space. The dual-aspect sitting room has wonderful garden views and a large fireplace with inset wood-burning stove. There's also a study/family room, shower room, bathroom and utility room downstairs. The first floor is accessed via two staircases, which give way to four bedrooms, one of which benefits from fantastic countryside views on both aspects. David Burr, 01787 463404, www.davidburr.co.uk.



14 GOATHLAND, NORTH YORKSHIRE PRICE: £895,000

If you're looking for a lifestyle change then Prudom House, an imposing 18th-century property with restaurant facilities, letting rooms and holiday cottage at the heart of the North York Moors National Park, might fit the bill. The flexible and adaptable property can be used as a family home with holiday cottage income or to develop a high-end bed and breakfast, wedding venue or restaurant business with letting rooms and on-site staff accommodation. The property has 11 bedrooms, six of which are en-suite, and has been refurbished to include a bespoke kitchen, a commercial kitchen, bar and garden room with moorland views. The village is close to Whitby, and the North Yorkshire Moors Steam Railway passes through the village station on its way to Pickering or Whitby. Smiths Gore, 01904 756303, www.smithsgore.co.uk.

15 BERRY NARBOUR, DEVON

PRICE: £1,450,000

The Old Rectory is a stunning and substantial family home with a two-bedroom coach house set in about three acres. Approached via a long, sweeping driveway, the property has a sitting room, dining room, conservatory, study, secondary lounge and office, all of which enjoy valley and garden views. The basement consists of three rooms, currently being used as a utility room, games room with bar and a wine cellar. On the first floor there are seven bedrooms, four bathrooms and a shower room. The spacious two-bedroom detached coach house has a terrace and two garages. Outside there's a heated swimming pool, gardens, a deck that adjoins the conservatory, a large detached garage, two stone-built outbuildings and a large vegetable garden. Turner-Carr, 01271 866421, www.propertysharingexperts.com.



18 CAWSAND, CORNWALL

PRICE: £400,000

Vine Cottage is a Grade II-listed, three-bedroom detached house in need of refurbishment with plenty of potential to extend, subject to planning permission. Set in a large walled garden, there are three bedrooms, a family bathroom, a kitchen with an Aga, dining room, sitting room and a Georgian-style conservatory. Outside, the storage building next to the property has its own drainage and water. The former fishing village, designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, has remained unspoilt with a maze of narrow streets and pretty cottages. The magnificent coastline of the Rame Peninsula and Whitsand Bay, with its excellent surfing facilities, are both close by, and Plymouth is 12 miles away. Marchand Petit, 01752 829000, www.marchandpetit.co.uk.

16 ANSTEY, HERTFORDSHIRE

PRICE: £695,000

Windmill Cottage is a charming, timber-framed 15th-century thatched cottage set in about half an acre. The ceiling heights are generous and the property has period features, including an inglenook fireplace with wood-burning stove in the hall, a heavily timbered dining room and a stone fireplace in both the drawing room and sitting room. The kitchen has recently been refitted and features an oil-fired Aga. On the first floor there's a vaulted master bedroom with en-suite shower room, two further double bedrooms, a single bedroom and family bathroom. Outside, there's a converted barn with two rooms that could provide a small annexe. To the front of the barn is the garage and the gardens include a large pond, walnut, pear and magnolia trees. Mullucks Wells, 01279 755400, www.mullucks.co.uk.



19 OLD HUNSTANTON, SUFFOLK

PRICE: £575,000

Hippisley Hut, a former radio listening station on the north Norfolk coast, is now a beautiful detached five-bedroom house in the centre of the village and close to the beach. Both the property and the site are of historic interest, with the house taking its name from RJB Hippisley, an amateur radio enthusiast during World War I. The accommodation features a large sitting room and open-plan kitchen/family room, an additional TV/living room, two bedrooms and bathroom on the ground floor with three further bedrooms and another bathroom upstairs. The house has gas-fired central heating, ample parking space and private gardens to the side and rear. The location is particularly appealing and the house has distant views from the first floor to the countryside and the sea. Bedfords, 01328 730500, www.bedfords.co.uk.

17 ALKERTON, OXFORDSHIRE

PRICE: £795,000

Dating from 1870, School House has been sympathetically converted and extended to create a family home. Constructed of local-cut ironstone with stone mullion windows, the house has views over the valley. The heart of the house is the school room/drawing room with a high vaulted ceiling with exposed trusses and timbers. There are working fireplaces at either end of the drawing room and dining room. The kitchen/breakfast room includes handmade cabinetry, an Aga and separate utility room. A gallery area overlooks the school room, which is currently used as a cinema room, but has potential to be another bedroom. Three bedrooms, one of which is en-suite, and a family bathroom are on the upper floors. The main garden is lawn and leads down to a paddock. Strutt & Parker, 01295 297876, www.struttandparker.com.



20 LODSWORTH, WEST SUSSEX

PRICE: £950,000

Little Gulls is a timber-framed house located in a sought-after village in the South Downs National Park. The charming period property has authentic character and was renovated with the help of skilled Sussex craftsmen, so the attention to detail throughout is second to none. The ground floor comprises the entrance hall, where oak wall and ceiling beams reveal the original structure of the house, sitting room, dining room, kitchen with large original fireplace and oak lintel, bathroom, study/bedroom and boot/utility room. There are three double bedrooms on the first floor, one of which has a roll-top bath in the corner, and a bathroom. Outside there's a summerhouse, log store and a walled garden mainly laid to York stone and planted with a profusion of flowers and herbs. Knight Frank, 01428 770560, www.knightfrank.co.uk.

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RICHMOND OAK

20 FABULOUS IDEAS FOR SUMMER ROOMS

A touch of glass

Glass adds light and space to your home. Whether it's a fully glazed conservatory, part-glazed orangery or even a separate garden room, now is the time to start planning your project in time for summer



One of the nicest things you can do to your home is to add an element of glazing, either by building a completely new conservatory, extending outwards with a glass orangery-style room or even adding a glazed summerhouse. Sunny rooms have a timeless appeal, and a cleverly positioned conservatory or extension can add a boost of sunlight to your living space, even in the middle of winter. Remember to check the rules and regulations regarding planning permission and building regulations before you start. The government website www.planningportal.gov.uk is well presented and easy to understand, so well worth a look before you start. Alternatively, any reputable conservatory company worth their

salt will be able to tell you what you can and can't do. Permitted development limits have been relaxed until 2016, so this could be a good year to start your project.

ABOVE

This garden room was created to interact with the garden and blend with the house. The design is by Vale Garden Houses and features an integrated covered area, accessed by folding doors. The conservatory is designed in a traditional style and is painted in Vale's Old Sage colour. Conservatories start from around £40,000. 01476 564433, www.valegardenhouses.com.

Classic looks



▲ ORANGERY STYLE

Designed to replace a past-its-best aluminium structure, this beautifully refined interpretation by Town & Country has become the main focus for family living at this handsome Victorian property. Views of the garden are possible, thanks to the conservatory's elevated floor level. A glazed lantern defines the space and floods the adjacent open-plan dining area with light. Bespoke designs from £30,000. 020 7091 0621, www.townandcountryuk.com.



▲ NEUTRAL STYLE

This aluminium conservatory-dining room from Alitex has a flat-fronted lobby feature, and is finished in polyester powder coating in Cat's Paw, one of Alitex's own colours. Choosing a subtle heritage colour takes the emphasis off the frame, and doesn't detract from the view. Prices for an Alitex conservatory range from £2,000-£2,500 per sq m, excluding building work and dependent on specification. 01730 826900, www.alitex.co.uk.



Expert advice

'Heritage colours are advisable when planning a conservatory for a period home – fashionable colours will eclipse your structure.'

Laura Bradley, Marketing Manager, Alitex

◀ LIGHT AND AIRY

This classic conservatory in white-painted hardwood is by Hehku. Each project is bespoke and the structure can be in either hardwood or aluminium. This sunny conservatory is nicely proportioned in relation to the main house, with multi-paned French windows matching the original doors. Prices from £40,000. 0800 542 4197, www.hehku.co.uk.

SUBTLE PROPORTIONS ►

This traditional hardwood orangery was sympathetically designed to complement a listed Tudor hunting lodge, and to flood the house with light. The orangery was designed by David Salisbury to echo the period features of the house, including matching stonework and leaded glass sections to the windows. Finished in Pebble White, the bespoke design costs around £75,000. 01278 764444, www.davidsalisbury.com.



‘For any home that struggles with light, we recommend an orangery with a glass lantern to invite in natural light and warmth. Our lanterns also have the option of opening vents to provide additional ventilation to the room’

David Handley, Commercial Director, Prime Oak

**▲ SQUARED OFF**

This generously proportioned orangery has floor-to-ceiling windows and doors on all three sides, as well as a lantern roof designed to ensure that the room gets as much light as possible. Creating a new room opened up the rear of this house while adding an inspirational family space with views of the garden. Prices from £40,000. Westbury Garden Rooms, 01245 806328, www.westburygardenrooms.com.

**▲ NATURAL TIMBER FRAME**

This orangery by Prime Oak has transformed a brick-built period home with a large, multi-purpose living and entertaining space. The design complements the existing home without competing with the angles, roof slopes and gables, or obstructing views from the first floor windows. Instead it provides a solution that nearly joins two wings of the house, with bi-folding doors and gothic arched windows. Prices from £40,000. 01384 296611, www.primeoak.co.uk.

Interior options



▲ FLOODED WITH LIGHT

This stunning brick and oak-framed extension was specifically designed to create a light space for entertaining with views of the garden. The glass construction was designed to echo the open architecture of the Elizabethan outbuildings and the main house's Tudor timber frame, while the lantern roof provides an abundance of natural light. The frame is in raw oak, finished with black furniture, £45,000, by County Oak. 01278 764415, www.countyoak.com.

'Timber-frame homes are designed to be entirely self-supporting, removing the need for interior walls, and allowing for magnificent cathedral-style roof spaces'

Paul Kirkup, Frame Design Director, Carpenter Oak



▲ LIGHT FROM ABOVE

This detached three-bay barn by Carpenter Oak can be built as an extension or as a new-build. The double-glazed gable end and roof lights allow light to flood in while efficiently keeping the building warm. This hand-crafted oak frame is around £36,000, including the balustrading, stairs and rafters; the exterior can be finished in other materials. Pay around £120,000 for the complete build. 01803 732900 www.carpenteroak.com.



◀ LOFTY DESIRES

Westwind Oak creates oak and timber-framed homes and structures. Using douglas fir is a preferred solution when designers need to specify longer, straighter lengths of timber, often required for extensions to period homes. This double-height loft-style structure embraces a feeling of light and spaciousness. A similar frame would be around £19,750 for supply and fitting. 01934 877317, www.westwindoak.com.

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Contemporary influences



▲ OPENING IT UP

This new-build home by Welsh Oak Frame has two walls constructed almost entirely of glass, allowing one side to be opened up with bi-fold hinged doors. The result is a delightfully old-fashioned-looking home that still includes a part-glazed roof and a summery indoor-outdoor lifestyle with easy access to the garden and living spaces. Prices are available on request. 01686 688000, www.welshoakframe.com.



▲ TOP TILES

This garden room extension has a roof lantern set into a tiled roof, designed and built by Malbrook for a Grade II-listed house. The carefully designed proportions and specifically selected materials mean that it blends seamlessly with the architecture of the existing structure and offers a spacious new family space with maximum light and minimum glare. From £40,000. 020 8780 5522, www.malbrook.co.uk.



Expert advice

'It's vital that the original structure can be clearly seen and appreciated when adding to a listed building.'

**Alan West, Director,
Trombe**

◀ CLEARLY SUCCESSFUL

A country home has been extended with a striking twin-gabled contemporary design, using structural glazing to allow the original building to be visible through the new walls and roof. As the original home was listed, no load-bearing effect on the house was allowed. Around £115,000 for a similar project. Trombe, 020 7688 6670, www.trombe.co.uk.

WIDE OPEN STYLE ►

This luxury, bespoke oak-frame orangery has been designed and built by Arboreta to accommodate a games room – perfect for a growing family. The structure features a substantial roof light for an airy feel, and bi-fold doors that open out onto the patio and provide views across the garden. Simple oak framing adds a streamlined, contemporary touch. An Arboreta orangery costs from around £35,000. 0800 288 8333. www.arboreta-oak.com.



'We use green oak, as it alters its appearance as it dries out, giving the building character'

Keith Rimmer, Production Manager, Arboreta

**▲ STYLISH IN GREY**

This tiled extension by Everest is designed to look like a permanent architectural extension. Structural insulated panels ensure superior thermal performance, while the bespoke glazed areas are custom-made in either uPVC or aluminium. Everest offers a guarantee on the materials and workmanship and a lifetime guarantee against fog and condensation on the sealed window units. Prices start from £45,000. 0808 278 6976, www.everest.co.uk.

**▲ PRACTICAL ASPECTS**

This simple, practical hardwood conservatory by Foxfurd was added to the side of a listed building; the owner wanted to combine the utility of a traditional greenhouse with the advantages of a contemporary conservatory. The resulting design improves the flow between garden and house, while using all the advantages of modern construction techniques. From £40,000 for a conservatory. 0845 576 9234, www.foxfurd.co.uk.

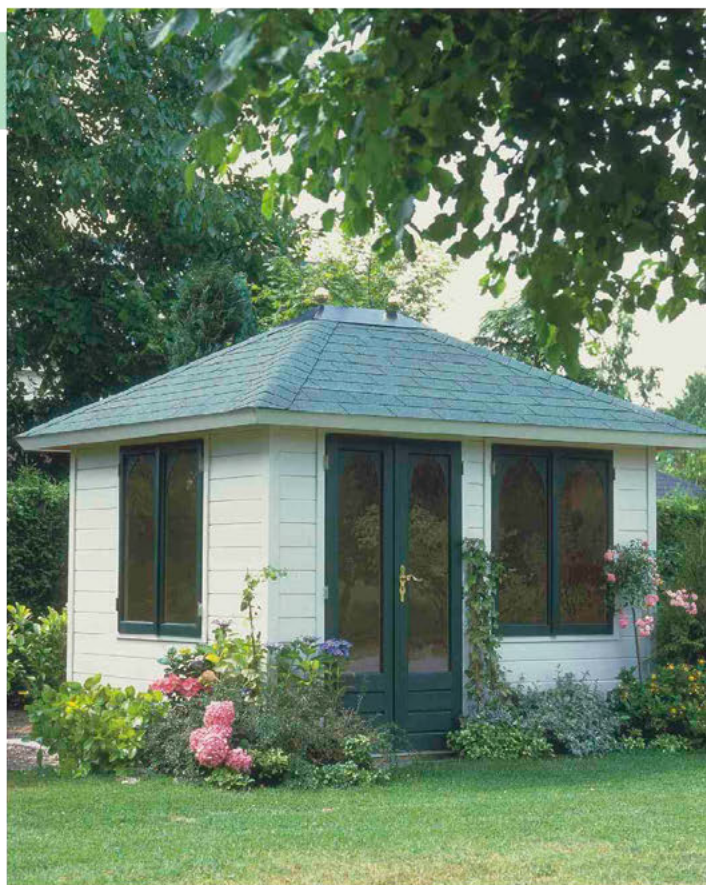


Alternative choices



▲ CLEVER DESIGN

This project by Room Outside is a very good example of an addition to a traditional period home that adds light and space, and which looks sleek and contemporary at the same time. A similar project from Room Outside is around £40,000. 01243 538999, www.roomoutside.com.



▲ SEPARATE IDEAS

The Prima Marloes by Garden Affairs is a timber summerhouse measuring 3.0 x 2.4m. It has a hipped roof with felt shingles, also available with cedar shingles or a slate-effect roof. Two double-glazed windows and a set of double doors come as standard. From £3,187; assembly from £750. 01225 774566, www.gardenaffairs.co.uk.



▲ BESPOKE ADDITION

This summerhouse from HSP Garden Buildings sits on a pad foundation system to minimise tree root inference, and is made in a hardwood construction with a sheet lead roof. The doors can fold back for summer entertaining. In a range of sizes, from £9,500 including installation. 01638 583814, www.hspgardenbuildings.com.



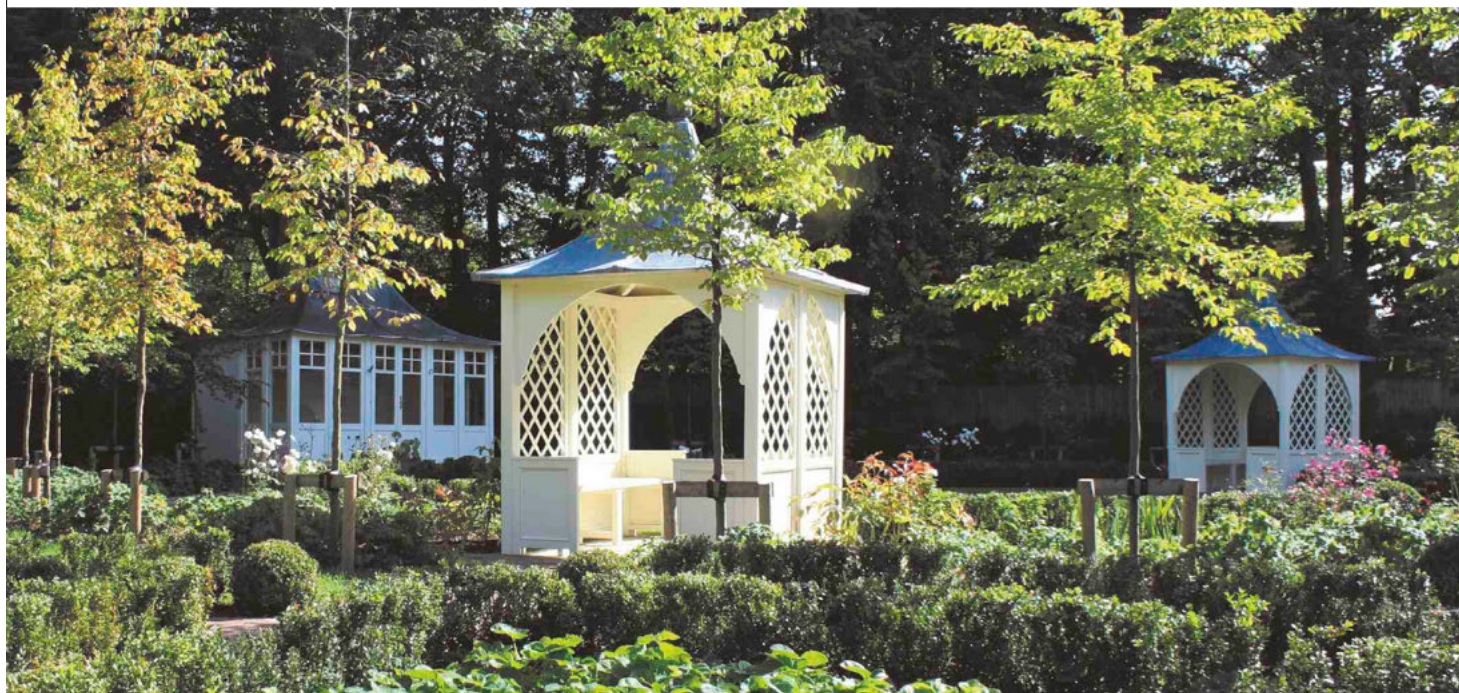
▲ SUMMER IN STYLE

This hideaway garden room from Radnor Oak was designed to let in as much light as possible, and to keep it practical there is a storage room for gardening tools to the side. A kit form building costs £18,000, and from around £36,000 for a design and build version. 01544 260727, www.radnoroak.co.uk.



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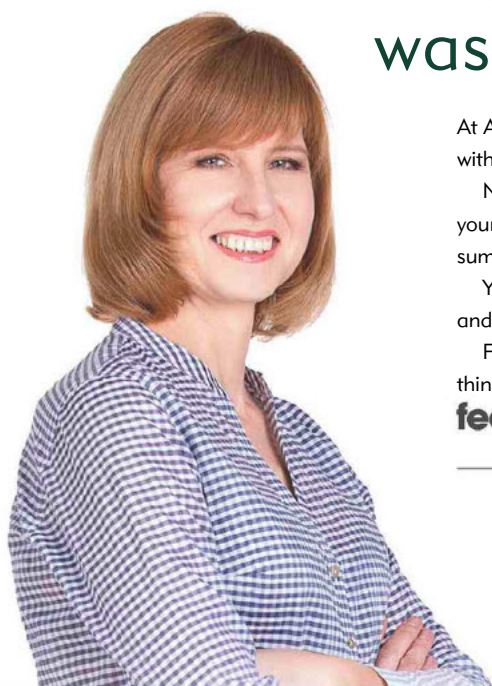
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1. A kitchen/dining conservatory could be the perfect place for a bespoke Classic English built-in window seat, from £1,800, deVol, 01509 261000, www.devolkitchens.co.uk. **2.** Neola lantern in polished brass, 69cm (h), also in antique brass and chrome finishes, £420, The Chandelier & Mirror Company, 01892 541355, www.chandeliersandmirrors.co.uk. **3.** The Faithly armchair in natural bamboo has a quirky retro Scandinavian style, 76 (h) x 75cm (w), £375, Out There Interiors, 020 8099 7443, www.outthereinteriors.com. **4.** Chinese Lantern in Rich Flat Matt emulsion, £39 per 2.5 ltrs, perfect for a feature wall in a sunny conservatory, from the Liberty range by Colour &

Paint, 0845 459 9771, www.colourandpaint.com. **5.** Seville II ceiling fan in New Bronze, 112cm (dia), £375.92, Hunter, 01256 636509, www.hunterfan.co.uk. **6.** Merle hurricane lantern with a pierced copper frame, 26cm (h), £45, Sweetpea & Willow, 0345 257 2627, www.sweetpeaandwillow.com. **7.** Set of three zinc planters with jute handles £75, Nordic House, 01872 223220, www.nordichouse.co.uk. **8.** Arley coffee table, from £235; Arley two-seater sofa, from £900; Arley snuggler, from £600; Arley side table, £145; all Laura Ashley, 0333 200 8009, www.lauraashley.com. **9.** Ladbroke outdoor wall lantern in antique brass, 34cm (h), £95.40, Dār Lighting, www.darlighting.co.uk.



ANTIQUE HUNTING

in Antwerp and Tongeren

A weekend spent exploring these picturesque Belgian towns will yield a wealth of treasures for the experienced and novice hunter alike

FEATURE ANNA LAMBERT
Anyone keen on beautiful buildings, an unmistakable whiff of history, great food and the opportunity to shop for wonderful antiques – often at very competitive prices – really should make a beeline for the Belgian city of Antwerp. And, just a three-hour train journey from

London's St Pancras station via Eurostar to Brussels, it could hardly be more accessible.

If antiques-hunting is your priority, as it was mine, head for Kloosterstraat (www.kloosterstraat.com) for a low-key start: brocante, bric-a-brac and decorative antiques – think elaborate window frames reinvented as statement mirrors and 1920s gym equipment, with bulky leather mats serving as quirky coffee tables.

Shop as the dealers do and let self-styled Antiques Diva Toma

Clark Haines be your guide. Toma, who hails from Oklahoma, has built a highly successful business on her unique blend of insider knowledge and formidable energy. If you can keep up with her, she'll introduce you to dealers you otherwise wouldn't get to meet, take you to antiques-filled warehouses you'd never have found and help you secure bargains that, without her, might have slipped through your fingers. She'll charge you around €575 (£415) for two people for a day, but she'll save you more than that in the time and money you'd otherwise pay for antiques; and she's a terrifically energising personality to shop with, too.

She took me to high-end Leopoldstraat and introduced me to Frank Van Laer (www.frankvanlaer.be), whose shop not only has a wonderful selection of pieces, from lighting to art to Eames chairs, but has them set out in a way that really does convey how they might work in your own home. I was particularly enamoured with a set of Dutch

This page, clockwise from top left The Sunday flea market at Tongeren. Antwerp's Grote Markt, the town's original market place. Street sellers at Tongeren line the pavements. Don't miss a meal at Sir Anthony Van Dijk, reputed to be one of the finest restaurants in Antwerp. Explore traditional architecture in Tongeren. **Opposite page, clockwise from left** Dine at Bistro Bis. The restaurant and bedrooms at JVR108 are elegantly and comfortably furnished.



'It's the frequent haunt of dealers who come here, fill up their vans, then drive off to various antiques centres around Europe to sell on what they've acquired at excellent prices'

chairs dating from the 1940s, with their original tapestried upholstery in mint condition.

Arguably more accessible, price-wise, was the Antwerp Art & Antiques Market warehouse in Mechelsesteenweg (www.antwerpantiquesmarket.com). Off the beaten track, it's the frequent haunt of dealers who come here, fill up their vans, then drive off to various antiques centres around Europe to sell on what they've acquired at excellent prices. I left with a pastel sketch of a girl, dated 1921, that set me back an affordable €125 (£90).

After a day's browsing, you'll certainly have earned your dinner – and tucked away down Vlaeykensgang, a cobbled twitten that might have come straight out of a de Hooch painting, is the Sir Anthony Van Dijck (www.siranthonvandijck.be). It's owned by renowned Belgian interior designer Axel Vervoordt, who rescued the building from dilapidation and transformed it into one of the city's most stylish restaurants. Feast on fine dishes, including fresh langoustine and fillet of lamb with mushroom purée – plus, of course, May is the perfect time to sample fresh asparagus; here it's white rather than green because it's grown underground for a sweeter flavour.

For accommodation, take your pick from Antwerp's mix of boutique hotels and quirky B&Bs. We stayed in a wonderful combination of the two: the uber-stylish JVR108, housed in a beautiful early 20th-century mansion just a 10-minute drive from the heart of town. You'll be rewarded for your steep climb up the impressive staircase by vast beds and bathrooms, sumptuous linens, antique furniture and exquisite hand-painted De Gournay wallpapers – and there's a delicious breakfast served up each morning that includes fresh fruit, pastries, cheese and cold meats.

On Sunday, hop on the train from Antwerp for the hour-long journey to the pretty walled town of Tongeren. There's a lovely Begijnhof here, where

you can sip beer and find out about the commune of women who called it home from the Middle Ages to the 19th century. For most visitors, though, Tongeren's biggest draw is the weekly Sunday flea market that kicks off at 6am and finishes at around lunchtime, attracting visitors from all over northern Europe. We found large red-and-white French linen tablecloths from as little as €30 (£22), pretty Victorian china and a wealth of reclamation items, from taps to tiles. While there are stalls on the street and plenty of shops selling more high-end items, most are under cover in the town's warehouses, meaning there's always something on offer, whatever the weather.

If you want to recharge your batteries in style, consider lunch at Bistro Bis (www.bistrobis.be) – a cork-clad, ultra-relaxed restaurant that describes itself as 'no nonsense' and serves a six-course tasting menu featuring the freshest vegetables and fish, plus local beef, complete with four wines, for the great-value price of just €69 (£50). We were particularly taken with the colourful rustic plates our food was served on. Made by the Belgian equivalent of Nigella Lawson, Pascale

Naessens, they're just the sort of thing that visitors to Tongeren will look forward to seeking out on an antiques-hunting trip in the future.



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FOUR NOT TO MISS WHILE YOU'RE IN ANTWERP...

1 Ruben's House, the atmospheric former home and studio of the 16th-century artist Peter Paul Rubens – www.rubenshuis.be.

2 Museum Mayer van den Bergh – once a private house, it's now home to a collection of Breughels, as well as illuminated manuscripts and medieval masterpieces – www.museummayervandenbergh.be.

3 The Silvius Brabo statue outside Antwerp's City Hall. Brabo was a mythical Roman soldier said to have killed a giant and thrown his hand into the river – from the ancient Flemish for hand-throwing comes the word 'Antwerp'.

4 Wander down the Nationalestraat, the heart of Antwerp's cutting-edge fashion and design scene, where avant-garde is the order of the day.

- Eurostar offers the Any Belgian Station ticket from £79 per person return. Eurostar operates up to nine daily services from London St Pancras International to Brussels Midi and from there passengers use their ticket to connect on to local services to their final destination. Fastest London-Brussels journey time is two hours. Tickets are available via www.eurostar.com or call 0343 218 6186.
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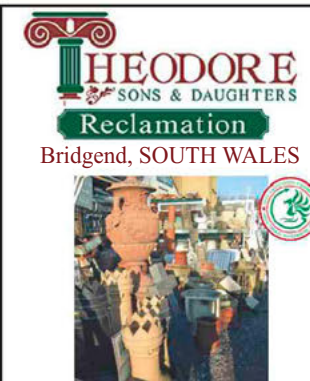


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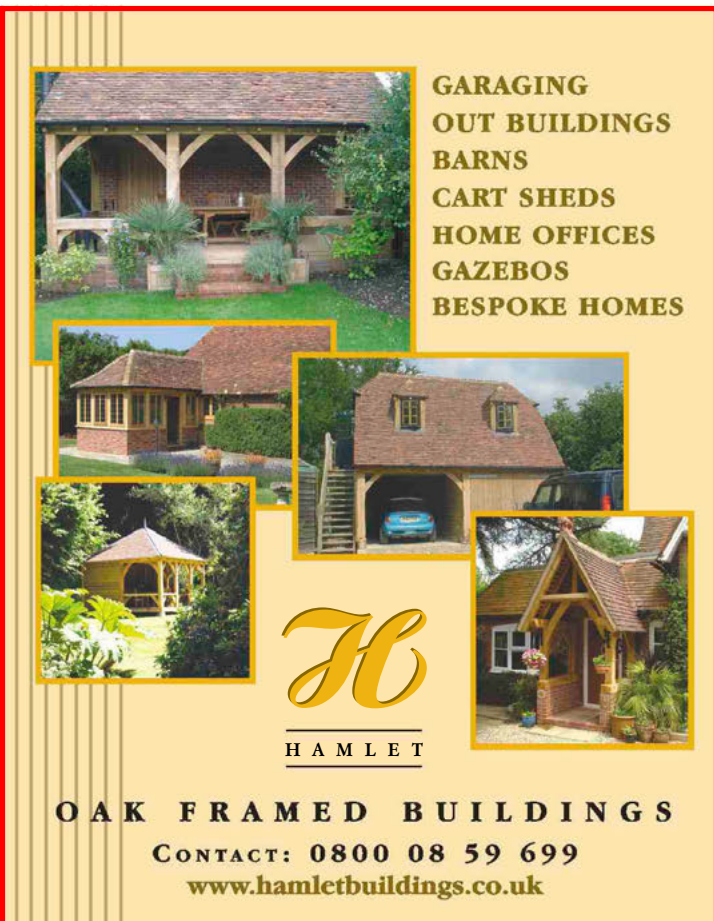
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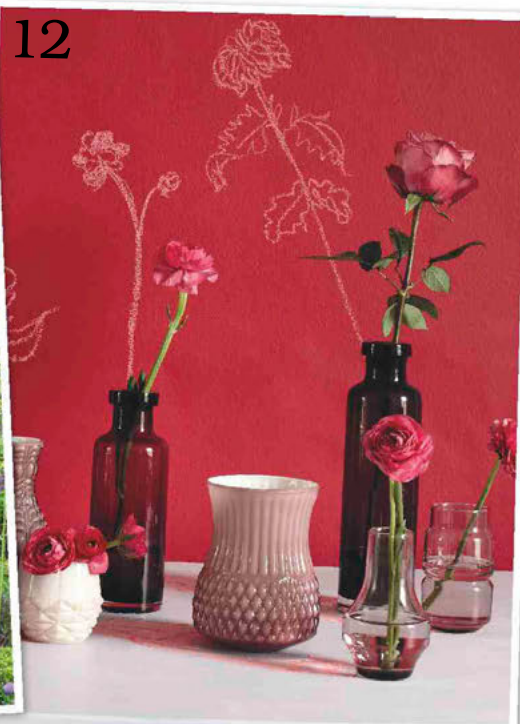
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Different strokes

We meet Louise Dean of The Creative Decorator, who specialises in bespoke hand-painted art

How did you get into what you do?

I've painted all my life. When my children were little I painted animals on their nursery walls. I found it so much fun that I started doing it for friends and it evolved from there. I've always been interested in interior design, so painting walls in a decorative way combines my passions as an artist and a designer.

Have you always been interested in designing and making?

As a child I was really into art, both drawing and painting. In fact, I really wanted to be an artist, or an actress or an astronomer. I have always identified with being creative.

What was the first piece you ever made? Initially I was doing animals for my daughter and Sonic the Hedgehog for my son. Shortly after that, when I was painting for friends, I realised that I loved trees and birds. Over time this has become my signature look. In the early days people were asking me to recreate things that already existed from film



or TV, but now they seem to be buying into my style, which is brilliant!

What inspires your designs?

There are lots of different things that inspire me. I love the cleanliness and simplicity of the Scandinavian look, but then at the opposite end of the spectrum I love chinoiserie and that opulent hand-painted feel. Nature is also a massive inspiration to me.

How does the making process work?

It usually starts with a conversation. Either the customer knows exactly what they want, or they have no idea, so I will try and come up with ideas and get them inspired. Often I look at the fabrics and colours that are in the room and work with that. It's a massive privilege for someone to trust me to go ahead and paint on their walls and it is very rewarding.

Where do you source your materials?

I use emulsion and acrylics as well as paints with a special finish; a metallic finish or a glitter finish, for example. All of this is readily available, so there is no great mysterious process involved. I also use a lot of Farrow & Ball paints, and I often mix them with white emulsion to give them a lovely muted colour.

Do you enjoy working for yourself?

Yes, it's very rewarding and fulfilling and is flexible around my family. It's very satisfying to make people



happy and to do something a bit out of the ordinary. I do miss being part of a team, though, as for the last eight years I've been working as a swimming teacher, but I gave that up recently to focus on my business. It can be lonely at times but when I'm doing a job I enjoy listening to the radio or getting lost in an audiobook.

What's the most important thing you've learnt?

I think it is self-belief and the determination to carry on against the odds. I feel like at first I let this business grow organically around everything else, but now I am more focused it is really paying off.

What's next for your business?

Well I am in talks with a local hotel and hopefully I'm going to be involved with redecorating some of the bedrooms. I would love to get into the commercial sector, such as wedding shops, boutique hotels and independent bars and restaurants. I think that hand-painted walls could really set a business apart. I am open to all ideas but I want to keep expanding my own themes and develop my confidence in my style. Rather than trying to do everything, I would love to specialise and have my own look. As with anything it is difficult to try and be everything to everyone.

You can shop online for cushions and accessories at www.wealdenfairs.com/thecreatedecorator.



Clockwise from above

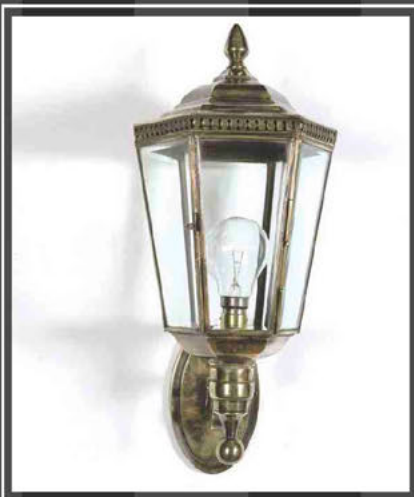
Teal peacock canvas embellished with glitter, 30 x 30cm, £80. Hand-painted blue silk cushion

with bird motif, 30 x 30cm, £45. Louise in her garden with Luna the Cock-A-Chon (a cocker spaniel/bichon frise cross).



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